

Commutation For Negro Approved

Commutation to life imprisonment of the death sentence of Clarence Robinson, Mobile County negro, condemned to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison Feb. 3 for murder, was recommended yesterday by Secretary of State Pete B. Jarman, Jr., and Assistant Atty. Gen. John J. Haynes, acting for Atty. Gen. Knight, composing a majority of the State Board of Pardons.

Favorable recommendation was denied by the majority in the cases of Charlie Jones and Willie James Johnson, of Jefferson County, under sentence to be executed on the same date. The Secretary of State recommended stay of execution until Feb. 24 in order to give time for study of the record in the case of Elijah Goldsby, negro, of Dallas County, condemned to execution together with Robinson, Jones and Johnson. Assistant Atty. Gen. Haynes, however, recommended carrying out of the sentence.

Auditor John Brandon, the third member of the Pardon Board is ill, but as soon as he is able to pass on all four capital cases, they will be placed before Gov. Miller for final action by him.

CRIME IN BIRMINGHAM

Appologists for the Birmingham Police Department have "explained" several times that the crime wave now back-washing over the Magic City is due to Governor Miller's paroling and pardoning of convicts.

Yesterday Paul C. Cole, a captain of detectives on the Birmingham police force, declared that most of the robberies are being staged by paroled convicts.

Captain Cole said that while there was no actual way to tell how many of the robberies are being staged by paroled prisoners he estimated that about 80 per cent of Birmingham's crime could be laid to them.

Incidentally, the detective mentioned that the police force had been "greatly reduced" and that more officers were needed to combat the underworld.

These two excuses, together with the depression, on which all things may safely be blamed, should very well exonerate the police force in the eyes of Birmingham citizens.

The detective head "estimated" that about 80 per cent of the crime in the city is caused by paroled convicts, be it remembered.

That charge is a fair substitute for efficiency.

It gives an excuse for crime.

It lays blame on an individual.

Birmingham voters, however, might view this and other excuses coming recently from the industrial city's law enforcement department more critically.

Birmingham is a city of about 50 square miles.

Many railroads and highways lead into it.

It probably suffers more from unemployment than any other city in the State.

A key city, Birmingham, even in prosperous times, has more than its fair share of drifters from the East and the West and other sections.

Now the city is plagued with undesirable floaters. This, coupled with the acute local unemployment situation should explain one source of crime.

But at this time when more policemen are needed to safeguard citizens, the municipal and county governments have been forced to discharge policemen because of scarcity of public funds.

Only a few days before the last "crime wave" began three police precinct stations were done away with—leaving the city of 50 square miles guarded by only one central station and a substation in Ensley, five miles distant.

The entire eastern section of the city (which is a larger territory than at least three-fourths of Montgomery) is left without protection of a calling station.

North Birmingham, a suburb larger than most Alabama cities, must depend on wandering patrolmen or central headquarters several miles away for protection.

The large western area of Birmingham is in the same predicament.

If Birmingham merely wishes to place blame on someone, it can join its police force and blame the Governor for its crime.

But if Birmingham really wants to stop crime, it should practice drastic economies in places other than the police department.

2 Negro Slayers Executed At Kilby

Willie James Johnson and Charlie Jones, Birmingham negroes, were executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison here early today.

Johnson, convicted of the murder of Jack Hartzog, Birmingham night watchman, entered the death chamber at 12:03 a.m. and was pronounced dead at 12:13.

Jones, who confessed to the slaying of a negro girl, entered a moment later and was dead at 12:23 a.m.

Neither negro made any statement, both answering the warden's query with a "No, sir."

PRISON REPORT IS FILED BY FEAGIN

3,491 Convicts Released During
Fiscal Year; 4,681 Still

In Custody
Montgomery, Ala.

Though 3,398 prisoners were received at State prisons and prison camps during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, and 3,491 were released during the same period, there were still 4,681 convicts on hand on Oct. 1, 1932. On the same date in 1931 there were 4,774 on hand.

Of the total received during the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 1932, those received from jail totaled 2,609, from temporary parole 561, recaptured 185, received from revoked parole 40, from insane hospitals 2, and from appeal bond 1.

Prisoners discharged for that period, on expiration of sentence, totalled 1,340, released on permanent paroles, 1,076, and temporary paroles 745. Two hundred and twenty-six escaped, 92 died from various causes, 7 were paroled into insane hospitals, 2 into the Industrial School, one had his case reversed and 2 were discharged on bond.

Of the total prisoners on hand Sept. 30, 1932, the largest representation was from Jefferson County, with 852; Cherokee having the smallest with 11.

Seven hundred and fifty-two were serving sentences for burglary; more than for any other offense. Six hundred and fifty-five were doing time for grand larceny, 599 for violating the prohibition law, and 531 for second degree murder. A total of 1,041 were 20 years old or younger, and 1,289 were from 21 to 25 years old.

The number of those who could read and write was 3,117, and who could not 1,564. At the time of their arrest 3,255 were employed, and 1,426 were unemployed.

County convicts on hand Sept. 30, 1932, totalled 577. Of these 397 were engaged in farming, 6 were in hospital, 13 were

aged and infirm, 76 were employed as cooks and flunkies, 11 were working in tailor shops, 66 were employed in highway maintenance, and 8 as mechanics.

All of the data and figures quoted are contained in the annual report recently filed with Gov. Miller by Director W. F. Feagin of the State Board of Administration.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ALABAMA

"Stick 'em up!"

A bank clerk, startled at the sudden command glances up into a sinister face. The clerk's hands go up. White-faced he moves his nervous eyes from the steel barrel pushed through the polished brass grating to the frightened patrons in the lobby, to the upraised arms of his fellow-workers, to the open vault across the marble corridor—and back to the steel barrel.

"Line up!" comes another command.

Wide-eyed customers, clutching bank books and deposit slips in upraised hands, back themselves to the wall.

The sharp voiced guard move quickly. The vault is opened.

With leveled pistols guarding their retreat, the bandits back away quickly to the door.

An engine roars as a car speeds away.

"Stop 'em! Robbery!" someone shouts.

The group huddled against the wall moves into action. The bank employees rush to telephones. A patron runs to the door. A woman faints.

There has been a bank robbery in an Alabama town.

There is no standing reward offered by the State for the arrest of bank robbers.

In the suburbs of a larger Alabama city, a patrolman is making his rounds. It is past midnight and except for corner street lights and an occasional gleam of yellow peaking through drawn window shades, the section is dark.

The patrolman is about to turn the corner when a flash of crimson catches his eye.

A bit of flame shoots from a rooftop. The uniformed man darts across the street and leaps up the front steps, three at a time. He bangs on the door with his flash light.

"Fire!" he yells.

Within a few minutes, a man and woman and two children are brought out into the air from the burning house.

"Kerosene," somebody shouts.

Firemen find oil-soaked rags under the residence.

An arson case in Alabama!
There is no standing reward offered by the State for the arrest of arson fiends.

On a plantation in South Alabama a lone housewife moves about in the kitchen preparing the noon-day meal. The "men-folks" are out in the fields.

The woman hears a knock on the back door.

She glances at a pot on the stove and steps to the door.

A strange face glowers at her. Frightened, she moves away.

The stranger holds something in his hand, a stick, a piece of pipe. His arm is upraised.

A blow on the head! She falls into unconsciousness.

She hardly remembers how it happened.

Twenty minutes past time for the dinner horn four tired and hungry men climb the front steps.

They find an unconscious form sprawled on the kitchen floor.

There has been an attack case in Alabama.

There is no standing reward offered by the State for the arrest of one who has assaulted a woman.

It is afternoon in a little Central Alabama crossroads town. A girl of nine enters the general store.

"I want a loaf of bread," she tells the storekeeper, "and a bottle of vinegar—and Jimmy wants to know if you could wrap him up some scraps for his dog."

The grocer places the bread and vinegar on the counter and with a smile at the mention of "Jimmy's dog," says he "reckons he can find something a dog would like."

With the packages under her arms, the little girl thanks the storekeeper, passes by the candy counter and out the front door.

She walks along the side of the highway. Perhaps she walks not far enough to the side.

Maybe she is wondering if she had remembered to get everything her mother told her to get at the store. Maybe she is paying too much attention to the big rocks near the highway.

An automobile speeds toward her, from out of nowhere it seems.

A shrieking sound of brakes, a frightened scream from the girl—and the sound of metal against a frail little body.

The car does not stop.

There has been a hit-and-run accident in Alabama.

There is no standing reward offered by

the State for hit-and-run drivers.

There is no standing reward offered by the State for the arrest of burglars who steal into homes at night.

There is no standing reward offered by the State for the arrest of highway robbers.

There is no standing reward offered by the State for automobile thieves.

There is no standing reward offered by the State for the arrest of murderers.

But the State of Alabama does pay \$50 to every peace officer who captures a still.

And to encourage the arrest of illegal distillers even more, the taxpayers of Alabama pay to every stool pigeon who informs peace officers of the whereabouts of stills an additional reward of \$35.

The Hooton bill which passed in the Senate yesterday cuts down the "informers" fee from \$50 to \$35.

The State of Alabama offers a standing reward of \$85 each for the confiscation of whisky stills.

The State of Alabama offers not one cent of standing rewards for the arrest of assassins, rapists, arson fiends, hit-and-run drivers or murderers!

ALABAMA'S PRISONERS

The Demopolis Times carries this sensible comment on an Alabama problem:

There is a good deal of demagoguery about the cost of keeping a man in prison being three times as much as keeping a child in school. It is really not so. Truly the cost of schooling might not be more than a hundred dollars a year, but the child has to be fed, clothed, housed, his health looked after, care taken of him, and it is doubtful if that can be done for a hundred dollars a year, as some of the critics would have it. Those who have reared children, know the cost and would be glad to get off with a hundred dollars a head. There might be more economy in the care of our convicts, maybe so, but there is no sense in such gross exaggeration of the difference in the cost of maintenance of the convict and keeping the child in school. Both have to be taken care of, no matter what the cost.

Next to the deficit itself, to which bears a definite relation, perhaps the knottiest public problem yet before Alabamians grows out of our prison situation.

There was a time when convicts returned a profit of a million a year to the public treasury. Now they are a drain on the public treasury.

The profit-years were those in which the convicts worked in the mines. But public opinion turned definitely against this policy and compelled the State to abandon it for reasons which then seemed sufficient. Actually if the State had not

abolished leasing to coal mine operators the operators themselves would, for the operators were approaching a time when the arrangement was unprofitable to them, and was becoming increasingly onerous.

Since then we have worked convicts on roads, in factories and on farms. Convicts have been as busy making deficits as they have been at anything else.

Now our prison factories face a dark hour. Their market is to be wrecked in April, at which time it will no longer be profitable to ship their goods into other States—indeed in some States the law prohibits outright the sale of such goods.

That means the State must find something else for its prison factory workers to do.

The time has plainly come when the State cannot hope to earn a profit by the use of its convict energy.

There is to be a wrecked market for factory products.

Everybody knows what the market for farm products is, and for the present the State is doing little road work.

There are approximately 6,000 State prisoners who must be housed, fed, clothed and guarded. The cost of this is enormous.

The Advertiser does not see how the State will be able to adopt a plan of operation which will ever again return a profit on the energy output of these prisoners.

The best that can be done, we suspect, is to make them self-sustaining and so relieve taxpayers of the cost of their upkeep.

They can grow the food they eat, they can make the clothes they wear, they can continue making automobile tags, they can sell some of their output to fellow Alabamians, they can work some of the roads. Perhaps their returns will be sufficient also to pay for guards and administration.

We have one more theory about it: When prohibition is repealed the prison population should tend to diminish. Prohibition has sent many men and boys to prison for trafficking in contraband. Abolish prohibition and it will not be profitable for men and boys to peddle liquor, and so it will be more difficult for them to break into jail and become charges upon the taxpayers.

NEGRO TO RECEIVE DEATH SENTENCE

Eight Others Given Terms In Prison; One Gets Life For Convict Murder

Rufus Orum, first Montgomery negro to be given the death penalty for slaying a member of his race in about 18 years, will be sentenced to die in the electric chair this morning by Judge Walter B. Jones in Circuit Court, Alabama. Jones, negro woman, will be sentenced to 25 years for the murder of her brother.

The criminal docket for this term will be completed with the sentencing of prisoners, beginning at 9:30 a.m., by Judge Jones, who is presiding for Judge McCord. Judge McCord left Wednesday night for Washington.

Eight other convicted persons were sentenced by Judge Jones yesterday morning, including Cliff Williams, youthful Kilby Prison convict who was given a life term for stabbing his cell mate to death; Jake Henry, negro, given 15 years for second degree murder; Sam Williams, sentenced to from two to three

The meeting Sunday was presided over by Dr. E. W. Taggart and the principal speaker was Prof. C. S. Bullard of Miles Memorial college of this city. The body rose en masse to congratulate Dr. Chas. A. J. McPherson, secretary of the organization, upon his being awarded the C. J. Walker medal in recognition of his courageous work in the Peterson case.

PROTEST HAIR-TRIGGER POLICE IN BIRMINGHAM

Repeated Killing of Negroes By Officers Arouses Action By Members of N. A. A. C. P.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Mar. 2—(ANP) A protest against the large number of killings by the police and other brutality was filed here last week with the City Commissioners, by the members of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. Portions of the document were read at the monthly meeting of the organization which was held

Give Flimsy Excuses

Reasons for the killings were simply "resisting an officer," which according to the protest ranged from talking back to an officer to struggling with him. The practice is prevalent, according to the petitioners in Negro neighborhoods and women and children have been abused with-

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Crime - 1933.

Alabama.

CRIME AND AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY STOCK

Within less than a month three men have been gruesomely murdered in Covington county. The most recent victim was carefully shot and to make sure that he would not survive an automobile was run over his body. **3-20-33**

These crimes might have occurred in Montgomery or any other county in Alabama, they might have occurred in any county in the United States. As it happened they occurred in Covington.

When such crimes occur in Alabama we know in advance that in all probability they were done either by native whites with an Anglo-Saxon ancestry running back to the American Revolution or they were done by native Negroes—not by "foreigners." We have few of the latter in this State.

"Foreigners" are not in fact more brutal than native Americans; actually in the countries of their origin, as a general rule, there is less lawlessness than in the United States.

Naturally in great metropolitan areas where slums and gangism flourish unfamiliar names appear with great frequency in the crime news, and so we are apt to conclude that racial origin rather than social conditions peculiar to our metropolitan areas is the significant factor for patriots and reformers to investigate and worry about.

When the Miami crime occurred many of our people were quick to notice that Zangara was a native of Italy, but slow to notice that Tony Cermak, his victim, was a native of Bohemia.

We are apt to forget, too, what is certainly a fact, that there are many men in Alabama, "pure Anglo-Saxons," who are capable of as heinous crimes as Zangara proved himself to be.

Alabama, Georgia, Vermont, Maine, Nevada, Montana, Illinois, all have their share of man-brutes, most of whom have been flattered too much by orators, essayists and poets.

There are men of Revolutionary ancestry in each of these States who would kill anybody for \$2.60—if they thought they could do it safely.

Zangara, at least, did not demand personal safety.

NEGROES AWAITING TRIAL

Scores of Negroes thronged the courthouse today awaiting the preliminary trial this afternoon of Mozelle Blake, Negro woman, charged with murder in the stabbing of Charlie Mae Hart, also a Negro. Minor cases were taken up in court during the morning session.

Portrait of a Southern Jail: Letter from Prisoner Tells of Filth, Disease and Graft

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Unless Wirt Taylor, young unemployed organizer, is able to get medical treatment, which means his release from jail, his leg, infected since he has been imprisoned, will have to be amputated, it was learned here by the International Labor Defense today.

Taylor and Alice Burke, whose case is also being appealed, were arrested Nov. 7, 1932, when they led a demonstration of 5,000 Negro and white unemployed demanding relief, before the county court-house here. They were convicted May 9 and sentenced to \$100 fine, six months' imprisonment and court costs, a total of a year on the chain-gang and in the workhouse.

In the Birmingham county jail, Taylor contracted an infection in his foot, from the filth which accumulates in the cells. Even in the stifling summer weather, men prisoners are not permitted to bathe more than once a week. It was several days before Taylor could obtain a doctor to dress his foot at all, and even then this was done in a superficial manner, with the result that his condition has steadily become worse.

HORRIBLE JAIL CONDITIONS

Horrible jail conditions are described by Alice Burke in a letter which has just reached the I.L.D. office here. "The majority of the prisoners, there are about 400 here," she writes, "are in for burglary, selling liquor, prostitution, etc. Talking to most of them one learns that because of unemployment, the hunger system that we live under, the working people are forced to re-

sort to selling liquor, stealing, women selling their bodies, just to have a place to rest and bread to feed their families. This is the story of many and many of the prisoners.

"When we were first brought here the prisoners whom we came in contact with were warned that we were 'nigger lovers'—trouble makers, and that the other prisoners should keep away from us. All kinds of provocative lies were spread about us by the wardens. This became so open that I would be pointed out to all visitors. I learned about all this from women in here, and finally decided that I would make a fight. I sent a letter to the head warden, and demanded the stoppage of all the lies and threatened a suit for slander. The head warden, Mr. Erwin, said he knew nothing of it, and said that 'some of the wardens must have only been "playing a joke" on me.' But he promised to take this up and see that it was cut out. As a result one of the wardens has been suspended for one month.

"THE entire jail is infested with big mice, which eat up almost any clothes that one has. Roaches and all other kinds of insects. Although the prisoners ask for some mouse traps, none are even given us.

"About three weeks ago I was very ill, unable to get up from bed, with my pulse beating only 40. The interne here examined me and told me that I needed medicine and should eat only soup and milk. The next day the head doctor (Collins) came, the first thing he asked me was what I was here for. When I told him I tried to speak at an unemployed meeting, he started muttering and walked

away. He refused to see me, give me any medicine, put me on a soup and milk diet, and even instructed the interne not to see me. Dr. Collins is being paid by the taxpayers of Jefferson County and is supposed to give treatment to all without discrimination.

IGNORE SICK PRISONERS

"The rules are that sick persons are to be taken care of, and given proper medical attention and proper food. The county is being paid for this, but it takes a long time before a doctor shows up, and even then all they give us is an aspirin tablet, no matter what ails a person.

"Right at this moment there are prisoners who have gone insane from conditions here. One man lay sick in his cell for days before anything was given him. And he is now in the insane cell. Several have gone insane since we have been here. The byword in this jail is 'Die and prove that you were sick!' Otherwise no one believes you.

"The food in this jail is becoming worse every day. Only last night the food was so bad that the men flooded their cells in protest. They were all locked up immediately in solitary, but this morning we got some pretty good eggs for breakfast. But the other meal was just as bad as before. Most of the foods here are starches—corn bread, grits, rice, fat-back cooked so bad it is uneatable many times. Even though this is the season for vegetables, we haven't seen any yet. The county has a prison farm a few miles out where women work, but evidently the food raised there is sold, instead of given to us.

"YESTERDAY one prisoner was rushed to the hospital as a result of ptomaine poisoning. This was no doubt caused by the food served here. For instance sometimes for supper we get dried apples or peaches. They are so old that they are almost black, and have such an odor that they are absolutely uneatable.

"There are all sorts of graft methods used here. For instance, the federal government pays the county \$1.25 a day for each government prisoner. That is for room and board, and the county pays 75 cents a day for its prisoners. The food we get here never costs the jail more than 15 cents a day at most, and certainly this is not such a wonderful hotel that we should be charged \$1.10 a day

daily for room. This leaves tremendous room for graft, and everyone here knows it.

PAY FOR FAVORS

"This is only part of the graft. In order to get a favor done, you



WIRT TAYLOR

have to pay for it, if not with money, then women prisoners are expected to pay in a more humiliating way. Otherwise you can't get anything you might need.

"There is nothing to do here, just sit and sit. Very little reading material can be gotten in, and Wirt Taylor and I have been totally refused any reading material, books, etc., which are brought. The officials are fearful lest the other prisoners should come in contact with working class literature.

"If a prisoner should kick about anything, he is locked up in 'sol' where he has to sleep on an iron slab, without mattress or blanket. The above are only a few of the conditions which exist in this jail. Under this boss system unbearable conditions in prison will always exist, and can only be improved by organized action.

"When our case comes up before the Alabama Supreme Court in the fall, there must be protest meetings, resolutions, etc., to show that the workers are ready to fight for their right to live and will not stand for the railroading of any of their leaders. Only mass pressure will force the Alabama rulers to free the arrested workers! Forward to a real militant organization of the toiling masses of the South!"

GOVERNOR MILLER ON CRIME

What the titular head of the State of Alabama has to say about crime and its punishment should be of especial interest to the outside world which has had occasion to turn its eyes towards the Alabama courts of late.

In an article, "The Encouragement of Hope," appearing in the True Detective magazine, Governor Miller discussed the prevention and punishment of crime in Alabama.

"Swift punishment of the guilty," he says, "is a natural deterrent. It is significant that wherever the courts have a reputation for swift and sure action, the usual crimes against society are noticeably few. The unfortunately devious and leisurely processes of law practiced in some localities are alluring to the criminal mind. The odds against him are not so great."

But the Governor adds: "Another factor enters into the consideration of the more 'unnatural' crimes such as premeditated murder. Here the element of popular indignation must be considered. Feeling against the suspect should be permitted to cool before the court acts, but when it acts it should be with the same swiftness and sureness that has marked its treatment of other crimes against society."

The majority of Alabamians, of course, agree with the Governor in this. While the courts here are not always able to act as swiftly as they should for the common good, they do act surely. And there are few cases indeed in Alabama in which trials are rushed through before public indignation has had time to cool.

And the Governor voices the views of most Alabamians when he says: "It is my view that the administration of justice should be always tempered with mercy."

We wish that those individuals in far-away places who have become impatient with Alabama's sense of justice could sit before Governor Miller's desk and hear what a representative Alabamian has to say of crime, punishment, justice and mercy.

Negroes Break Jail At Camden

The Sheriff's office was notified yesterday afternoon of a jail break which occurred early Sunday morning at the Wilcox County jail in Camden, in which Norman Stallworth, Robert Lee Edwards alias Polly, and Leroy McConnell, negroes, escaped.

A description of each of the fugitives was furnished and county authorities here requested to be on the lookout for them. Stallworth's father lives in Hayne-

ville, and all three negroes have relatives in Birmingham, it was stated. Two of the "escapes" had previously been arrested for robbery, according to advice from Camden and are dangerous characters.

No details concerning the jail break were given by Sheriff C. L. Whitton sent in the notice of the escapes.

Birmingham, Ala. Eagle

September 11, 1933

SEEMS TO BE GENERAL

Did you know that Baldwin County, Alabama, is approximately 75 miles long? and that Foley, Ala. is further south than Pensacola, Fla.? And did you know that on a population basis Covington County people commit several times as much murder as the people of Chicago? And did you know that we have yet to execute a white man from Covington county and that it has been longer than grey-haired citizens of this county can remember since we executed a negro for murder? Time to shorten the long corners of this county by turning a new leaf.—Opp Weekly News.

All of which is a unique record. The death penalty handed a murderer is a harsh thing—but so is murder itself.

Executing murderers may or may not be a restraining influence for potential killers, but there is no doubt that it is a deterrent for the murderer who is put to death.

Alabama at present seems to have an epidemic of Negro rapers. It began with the Scotsboro case, but the only ones who have been put to death were two who were lynched. Can the fact that the long delays of court action have any bearing on the epidemic?

We believe that these delays, appeals, verdicts set aside and other legal red tape, coupled with the odious activities of the I. L. D. have had their bad effect.

And the fact that so few cold-blooded killers ever get the extreme penalty also is unwholesome.

There have been killers in Covington county who should have been put to death, but Covington county should not feel conspicuous. The entire country seems to be in a similar state.

'South More Moral, Law-Abiding Than North,' Asserts Dr. Harper

UNIVERSITY, ALA., Sept. 10.—(Special)—The South is really more moral and law-abiding than the North, taking everything into consideration, says Dr. Roland M. Harper, statistician residing at University of Alabama.

Dr. Harper has been studying some of the statistics of the subject and declares that people who take fiendish delight in saying that the South has more crime in proportion to population than the North have interpreted statistics incorrectly.

"Crime is essentially a city problem, for in small towns and farming communities where the people all know each other, it would be impossible for any one to pursue a criminal career, although robberies may be committed by transients, and neighbors may occasionally quarrel and kill each other. But in a large city the opportunities for burglars, racketeers, etc., are far grater and at the same time it is comparatively easy for a criminal to lose himself in the crowds.

"As Alabama and neighboring states have only about one-fourth of their population urban, as compared with one-half to three-fourths in most of the north-eastern states, its evident that the opportunity for crime is much greater in the North.

"In the last few years the U. S. Department of Justice has been issuing NEGROES AND CRIME

Mayor Gunter's appeal to the decent Negro citizenship in connection with the recent robbery and attempted assault upon a white woman which occurred in this city had its effect in the effective cooperation of the responsible Negroes of our community.

This cooperation led to the arrest of two men suspected of having committed the crime and the reported confession of one of them.

This is the way for whites and blacks to get along comfortably and safely together. Here in the South white men control government, to be sure, but it is the duty of law-abiding Negroes to cooperate at all times with the agents of the law in running down the criminal Negro as well as the criminal white.

Nothing could do more to put the Negro in a new light before all the people than for all the people to realize that the responsible Negro citizen is as hostile to the Negro criminal as the white man is.

Bad people of every kind must be put under the control of law and society. Blacks and whites owe it to themselves to cooperate to this noble end.

monthly and quarterly reports on crime, based on voluntary returns by police officers in cities of various sizes, now totaling 1,606, and including nearly half the population of the United States. This still leaves the rural districts unaccounted for, but one table in the latest report groups the cities according to size, and shows that most kinds of crime, and especially robbery, burglary, and larceny, are more prevalent in large cities than in small ones; and this in spite of the fact that the largest city of all, New York, is not among those reporting.

"Another fact commonly disregarded by the South's detractors is that most of our homicides, as well as many of the other crimes, are among the colored population; so that if northern and southern whites were compared, the latter would show up to still better advantage. Dr. J. J. Durrett, former resident of Tuscaloosa and student at the University, published several years ago a pamphlet showing among other things that in Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, and New Orleans in 1921 and 1922, 61 per cent of the known killers and 70 per cent of the killed were negroes, although negroes constituted only about 30 per cent of the population of those four cities. A number of the criminals were strangers, never counted as part of the population."

Walking Peaceably Along Street, Negro Is Beaten by Dicks

(From a Negro Worker Correspondent) NORTH BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

I was walking on 34th Street and 31st Ave. on my way to see a neighbor when I met a police dick and his partner. They drove by me a short distance and then turned around. They overtook me and stopped the car and told me to come to them, so I walked to the car. One began searching me and I asked them what they were looking for and told them I did not have any money and I did not have anything. They said to me, "Do you think that we are looking for money?"

I did not have anything so the police dicks got out and talked to me and slapped me once on the back of my head and said, "We are going to kill all of you niggers out here." Then they both got in the car and drove away.

After police dicks slapped me and my hat fell off, I staggered from the stroke and they cursed me.

This attack took place Sunday Aug. 27, 1933.

THE MAINTENANCE OF CONVICTS

To the Editor The News:

Recent editorials in The News and other Alabama papers supporting my contention that the fee system now in vogue is responsible for the crowded condition of our prisons, are highly appreciated and should be helpful in our efforts to relieve the taxpayers of Alabama of this unjust burden.

Another major problem facing the state at this particular time is the Hawes-Cooper act, which, if it becomes effective in January, will prove extremely costly to the taxpayers. Your recent comments on this act are highly appreciated and will do much toward convincing the public of the unjustness of this legislation.

In your comments on this subject you stated, in effect, that Alabama convicts can do much toward maintaining themselves by producing their own food and clothing. For your information, and that of the general public, I permit me to say that the convicts in Alabama are more nearly maintaining themselves. I believe than any other state prisoners in the United States. In fact, it can truly be said that Alabama convicts do maintain themselves in both food and raiment, when it is considered that the few items purchased in outside markets are paid for out of revenue produced by the convicts.

With the exception of shoes and a few other articles which cannot be manufactured economically, they completely clothe themselves. Except for certain necessary foodstuffs which cannot be produced profitably in Alabama, they provide practically all of their food.

It may be of interest and gratification to the taxpayers to know that Alabama convicts produce annually on state-owned lands about 3,000 bales of cotton, the equivalent of which is woven in our own mills, and that convict labor converts the cloth into all of the coats, shirts, trousers, socks, caps, overalls and underwear used in our prisons and camps, as well as all bedding.

Corn bread and grits are fed to the prisoners in large quantities, all of which is made from the corn grown by them.

Our convicts produce all of the potatoes, both sweet and Irish; all of the syrup, most of the rice, all of the milk and butter, and many other items of food which they consume. During the growing season they put up, or can, the surplus of green vegetables grown on our farms, including okra, peas, string beans, cucumbers, squash, turnip greens and beets. During the last fiscal year they canned 152,038 gallon-tins of vegetables and fruits.

All of the fresh pork served to our prisoners is from our own hog farms. The money received from the sale of hogs and cows is used in purchasing food products not producible on our farms, or not produced in sufficient quantities.

The Convict Department last year deposited in the state treasury \$1,690,719.28 from our prison farms, cotton mills and other convict activities. It withdrew \$1,890,572.01, or \$199,852.73 more than it deposited. Out of this difference, it had to pay \$163,398.58 to county officials in fees and court costs. It paid \$29,690 in rewards for conviction of prohibition violators, and \$118,522.12 on necessary additions and improvements to prison properties, or permanent improvements. Had it not been for these three items, the Convict Department last year would have shown a net earning of \$111,757.97.

The present Legislature had before it a state-use bill which, if it had been enacted into law, would have been very helpful to Alabama if and when the Hawes-Cooper act goes into effect. However, it will be impossible to find home markets adequate to take care of the surplus products which our convicts are capable of producing, no matter what kind of state-use law is enacted. It is, therefore, highly essential, both in the interest of the taxpayers and the welfare of the convicts, that outside

markets be retained.

There is a great deal more to this question of convict labor than is measured in dollars and cents. It is conceded and demanded by an enlightened public that every inmate of our penal institutions serving determinate sentences be treated as a human being, and given every possible opportunity to return to society improved in health, education and morals. If our convicts are forced to idleness, these ends cannot be obtained.

I am thoroughly convinced that once the public is made acquainted with these facts, sentiment will be sufficient, not only in Alabama but throughout the land, to induce the national government not to disturb the situation as it exists today.

WILLIAM F. FEAGIN,

Director State Board of Administration,
Montgomery, Ala.

(Editor's Note: In the case of the foregoing letter, The News makes an exception to its rule that letters should not exceed 300 words in length, because of Mr. Feagin's official position and the fact that his communication is in the nature of a public document.)

Solving The Problem
Of Convict Labor

Alabama is not the only state that has not yet solved the question of what to do about convict labor when the Hawes-Cutting act prohibiting the shipment of prison-made goods in interstate commerce goes into effect. Among other states that are not prepared to meet the new conditions which this federal law will impose is Connecticut, judging from the comment of The Waterbury Republican. "The proper solution of the problem created by the Hawes-Cutting act," says The Republican, "is the state-use system of prison labor. By this system prisoners are employed in a diversity of industries, making things used by state institutions and departments not only in their own states but also in other states. There is no doubt at all that the prisoners at Wethersfield could all be employed in making things that the departments and institutions of this state use. Has the State Prison Board formulated plans for putting the prisoners to work on the state-use basis? If not, why not? More education for the prisoners would be a good thing, and they should have it, but no classroom work can take the place of regular workshop employment. The Board of Finance and Control should be slow to provide money for changes at Wethersfield that cannot furnish a permanent and adequate solution of the work problem."

The solution which The Republican suggests for Connecticut is applicable to most states. In fact, the state-use system appears to be the only satisfactory answer to the question presented by

the Hawes-Cutting act. In Alabama, convicts can do much toward providing for their own maintenance. Much of the food they consume can be grown on prison farms. Most of their clothing needs can be met through their own work in prison industries. In addition, prison industries can doubtless supply many things used in other state departments and institutions.

It will be granted that such an arrangement must be worked out carefully and that it will require much study and planning. There will be difficulties. But this method undoubtedly presents the easiest and the best solution of the problem created by the Hawes-Cutting act.

Alabama's position in this respect is made particularly difficult by a number of circumstances. One of these is that it has been only a few years since this state abandoned the convict-lease system, and had to make a drastic reorganization in its methods of handling convicts. That put the state to a great deal of expense. Now Alabama has barely adjusted itself to the new arrangement when the Hawes-Cutting act necessitates another reorganization.

Another circumstance which makes Alabama's position difficult is the fact that this state has the largest prison population, in proportion to population, of all the states. That is due largely to the operation of the convict fee system, about which there has been so much complaint. Alabama can reduce its prison population by abandoning that system, and this should be done at the earliest opportunity. Alabama can also do much toward reducing its prison population, and at the same time toward solving the problem of convict labor under the Hawes-Cutting act, by adopting a scientific system of probation. These measures, together with the adoption of the state-use system of prison labor, should go far toward preparing Alabama to meet the conditions imposed by the Hawes-Cutting act.

The Fee System
And Congested Prisons

William F. Feagin, director of the State Board of Administration, is unquestionably correct in placing the blame for the congestion in the state prisons largely on the fee system. Doubtless there are other contributing factors, but it is obvious that the system under which the state pays fees to the counties is more responsible than anything else for the overloading of prisons. Nor is this the only bad thing about the operation of the fee system.

Mr. Feagin says that the cost to the taxpayers of maintaining convicts would be materially reduced if the fee system were abolished. The State Convict Department is required by law to pay all court costs of both state and county prisoners. During the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, 1933, the total amount of these costs was \$163,398.58, and of that sum county convicts accounted for \$83,154.12, or more than half. The two largest counties of the state are not included in that figure, since Jefferson and Mobile, which work their own convicts, absorb the costs themselves. If fees were paid to them, the total would be much larger.

"The evidence on record is conclusive that the iniquitous fee system is responsible for a large measure for the congested condition of our state prisons," Mr. Feagin says. "Last year one small county alone convicted as many men on one single misdemeanor charge as Montgomery County sent to state prisons on both misdemeanor and felon charges, and the offense represented a minor and inconsequential infraction of the law. The cost to the taxpayers of these misdemeanor offenses from one small county amounted to \$2,103, to which the taxpayers added another \$1,890 with which to transport them to prison, clothe, feed and guard them, and transport them back to the point of conviction."

Such prisoners should never be sent to state prisons. Persons convicted on minor misdemeanor charges are sentenced to very short terms. The cost involved does not justify sending them to state prisons. As Mr. Feagin points out, these short-term convicts are practically worthless to the state as revenue producers, because they are not incarcerated long enough to learn how to perform in the prison industries. Thus each short-term prisoner represents a dead loss to the state. As an indication of how expensive this is, the smallest infraction of the law costs the state \$19.30 in court costs alone. The cost of transportation to and from prison and of clothing, feeding and guarding each prisoner runs the expense considerably higher.

"It is a matter of record," says Mr. Feagin, "that the greater portion of court costs goes toward the compensation of county officials. There is no more justice in requiring the Convict Department to pay the compensation of county officials than there would be in requiring it to pay the salaries of the Supreme Court justices, the attorney general and other state officials who are parties directly or indirectly to the enforcement of our laws." Mr. Feagin's position in this matter is entirely sound. It is an indefensible arrangement, and Alabama should lose no time in discontinuing it. Mr. Feagin expresses the belief that Alabama is 50 years behind the times in retaining this "obsolete system." According to his information, it does not obtain anywhere else in the United States. As a consequence, Alabama has the largest prison population, in proportion to general population, of all the states. That is a distinction which no Alabamian should relish. And surely the people of this state, once they realize that it is mainly due to the fee system and the imposition of short-term prisoners on the state, will wish to have the arrangement abandoned.

The system would be extremely unwise and inefficient even if there were no abuses of it. But there are bound to be abuses. Anyone can see how it is working—or rather how it is being worked. Many counties send large numbers of these short-term prisoners to the state prisons simply because it is profitable to them—and to county officials. The state foots the bills and gets nothing in return. Naturally, some counties are eager to make convictions. Therefore, they are likely to strain points a little, and it should not be surprising to find that sometimes persons charged with a minor misdemeanor are not dealt with in an altogether just and considerate manner.

FEAGIN BLAMES PACKED PRISONS ON FEE SYSTEM

Advertiser
Court Costs Of Last Fiscal
Year Took \$163,389

From Taxpayers.

11-19-33
SMALL COUNTIES CUTTING
DEEP INTO PUBLIC FUNDS

Montgomery
Cost to the taxpayers of Alabama of maintaining convicts would be materially reduced if the fee system were abolished, according to a statement issued yesterday by William F. Feagin, director of the State Board of Administration. Under the law, the State Convict Department is required to pay all court cost bills of both State and county prisoners, which during the fiscal year

ending Sept. 30, 1933, amounted to \$163,389.58. County convicts were responsible for more than half of this total, or \$83,154.72, according to Mr. Feagin's statement. It probably would have been increased to more than \$100,000, it is said, except for the fact that the counties of Jefferson and Mobile work their own convicts, and absorb the costs.

"The evidence on record is conclusive that the iniquitous fee system is responsible in large measure for the congested condition of our State prisons," declared Mr. Feagin. "Last year one small county alone convicted as many men on one single misdemeanor charge as Montgomery County sent to State prisons on both misdemeanor and felon charges, and the offense represented a minor and inconsequential infraction of the law. The cost to the taxpayers of these misdemeanor offenses from one small county amounted to \$2,103.00, to which the taxpayers added another \$1,890.00 with which to transport them to prison, clothe, feed and guard them, and transport them back to the point of conviction."

"The smallest infraction of the law costs the State \$19.30 a man in court alone," stated Mr. Feagin. "And due to the short term sentences imposed, these men are practically worthless to the State as revenue producers, for the reason that they are not incarcerated long enough to learn how to perform in our prison industries."

According to figures compiled for the Administration Board's annual report, the greatest producer of misdemeanor cases is Tuscaloosa County, which piled up a court cost of \$4,407.75 during the past fiscal year. Escambia County was second with \$4,084.50. Dallas was lowest with only \$89.35. Jefferson was ahead of all counties in felon cases, chalking up a cost against the Convict Department of \$12,317.14. Montgomery ranked second with \$4,909.85.

"It is a matter of record," continued Mr. Feagin "that the greater portion of court costs goes toward the compensation of county officials. There is no more justice in requiring the Convict Department to pay the compensation of county officials than there would be in requiring it to pay the salaries of the Supreme Court justices, the Attorney General and other State officials who are parties directly or indirectly to the enforcement of our laws."

Mr. Feagin said he believed Alabama was 50 years behind the times in retaining this "obsolete system" which, according to available information, obtains nowhere else in the United States, and is responsible for Alabama's unenviable distinction of having the largest prison population, in proportion to general population, of all the States.

The following table shows court costs paid to the 67 counties by the Convict Department during the year from October 1, 1932, to September 30, 1933:

County	Cost
Autauga	790.15
Baldwin	2,086.88
Barbour	1,802.05
Bibb	953.55
Blount	968.20
Bullock	1,614.05

Butler	2,386.45	468.30
Calhoun	592.20	843.55
Chambers	1,213.40	600.60
Cherokee	233.35	323.05
Chilton	1,039.75	1,010.95
Choctaw	231.90	367.55
Clarke	475.00	601.35
Clay	478.80	218.35
Cleburne	1,436.45	841.40
Coffee	2,597.70	1,422.75
Colbert	876.90	759.40
Conecuh	2,020.05	194.25
Coosa	392.15	927.05
Covington	797.72	1,721.40
Crenshaw	1,864.85	529.67
Cullman	639.30	913.80
Dale	1,806.71	632.30
Dallas	89.35	1,019.45
DeKalb	712.95	762.10
Elmore	2,431.70	1,307.15
Escambia	4,084.50	849.00
Etowah	680.40	1,448.55
Fayette	1,250.95	347.00
Franklin	1,413.85	1,262.35
Geneva	1,056.67	1,019.15
Greene	485.00	363.40
Hale	856.72	948.22
Henry	802.40	499.00
Houston	1,683.25	1,516.03
Jackson	606.85	634.25
Jefferson		12,317.14
Lamar	403.35	347.75
Lauderdale	3,548.95	1,310.78
Lawrence	1,450.60	1,167.69
Lee	1,846.90	1,614.85
Limestone	121.40	1,548.75
Lowndes	854.80	251.50
Macon	1,464.45	998.45
Madison	2,297.45	1,817.40
Marengo	624.36	1,087.40
Marion	724.50	491.35
Marshall	1,047.25	1,438.80
Mobile		2,229.45
Monroe	1,803.25	755.45
Montgomery	1,021.50	4,909.85
Morgan	1,454.10	1,992.25
Perry	384.65	500.60
Pickens	765.70	327.20
Pike	1,403.60	960.25
Randolph	608.20	860.25
Russell	1,190.10	1,583.05
Shelby	1,477.20	1,636.95
St. Clair	1,535.45	634.75
Sumter	1,171.90	742.75
Talladega	1,162.40	1,746.55
Tallapoosa	591.75	275.00
Tuscaloosa	4,407.75	2,453.00
Walker	3,343.72	2,294.13
Washington	863.05	54.60
Wilcox	1,723.10	1,077.75
Winston	411.15	524.55
Total	\$83,154.72	\$80,243.86

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

SFP 27 1933
One Patent Reason

Negro leaders in Birmingham are sponsoring the formation of a fact-finding committee to ascertain the reason for the current crime wave, particularly as it involves the negro race. One of the first facts such a committee will find, as Dr. Kenneth Barnhart, formerly of Birmingham-Southern college, has al-

ready found, is that there is a direct relation between illiteracy and crime in the negro race, just as in the white race.

People who are taught to think straight do not commit brutal crimes unless they are mentally unsound. If we had more schools, open for longer terms and taught by better teachers, we would need fewer prisons.

THE LAW IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The officers responsible for the arrest of men charged with a recent robbery and attempted criminal assault, are to be congratulated by the whites and blacks of this community upon the intelligence and enterprise with which they attacked their baffling problem. They were successful under conditions which at one time seemed hopeless. The work of these officers has been admirable. 9-13-33

It is to be hoped that the reported confessions will lead to a prompt indictment by the grand jury and a prompt trial by a petit jury.

Montgomery
This is Montgomery County. It has a reputation to protect and conserve. It is an orderly county with a citizenship that is just and fair-minded. The people of this county have not been given to mob action. They have believed in letting the law take its course.

If the Negroes now under arrest are guilty they will no doubt be promptly convicted and promptly punished. If they are not guilty their innocence will be established in the courthouse of Montgomery county.

Let these men be tried fairly and justly, come what may! The Advertiser is confident that they will be treated fairly and justly for the reason that no good citizen in this county desires to see the innocent suffer.

The good citizen desires to see the guilty suffer, especially where crimes of this nature are concerned.

The citizen who defends and excuses mobs does so on the theory that the courts are slow and uncertain. Actually Alabama courts are not slow in disposing of those accused of the Crime of Crimes, and so the lyncher's excuse is not valid. It has never been valid.

Let the law proceed in an orderly, majestic manner to discharge a solemn duty faithfully!

MOBILE NEGROES ATTACK CRIME

A group of leading Negro citizens of Mobile met recently and discussed the relation of their race to crime. In the end they adopted a powerful resolution which should go far to sober the irresponsible elements in both races.

We quote the declaration in full as follows:

We deeply deplore the unusual amount of racial friction which has developed within Alabama in recent years. The large majority of the thoughtful negroes of this city and of this State have worked diligently with fair-minded white people to develop and cement a spirit of helpfulness, of understanding, of tolerance and of friendship between the races. It grieves us to find that all of the fine work of the past years which has been done by white leaders and negro leaders in Alabama is about to be destroyed because of ignorance, passion, prejudice and poverty. We must not permit any disruption of this splendid relationship to occur. No gulf of misunderstanding between the races shall be allowed at this time.

We are led to believe that some of the present unrest and friction is due to the influence of certain outsiders under the name of communists—or some other high-sounding name. We believe that paid agents are circulating literature among the negroes in certain sections of Alabama and inciting them to commit crime by spreading unwise inflammatory doctrines among our people. Negroes have nothing to gain by following foolish propaganda; we have everything to lose. We do not believe that the negroes should be led astray by unsound, alien influences. The negro, as a race, is not criminally inclined, but he has been used as a tool by evil designers and has been unduly influenced in the past.

We abhor and denounce crime among our people, whether perpetrated within the race or upon members of other races. Crime is becoming too common and life is held too cheap. We go on record as denouncing and disapproving of any person who shields, or helps to hide, such criminals. We believe that every guilty person should be punished, but that they should be given a fair trial and punished according to law. The law should be applied and enforced upon all law violators alike.

The fair name of the state of Alabama has been terribly befouled during the past year. A spirit of restlessness and unhealthy tension has been created. We are calling upon the negro citizens of Alabama to obey the laws and we are pleading with the law enforcement officers of Alabama to protect the lives of all persons, regardless of race, by rigidly upholding the law.

An unfair attitude upon the part of one group, or a spirit of resentment upon the part of another group is not healthy, fair

or beneficial. It breeds trouble and helps no one. It is contrary to the laws of God.

We are urging the people not to listen to outside propaganda, and we plead for a spirit of patience, loyalty, tolerance, charity, sympathetic understanding and helpful cooperation, coupled with a strict observance of all laws.

The Mobile Press heartily commends the spirit and the phraseology of the resolution, declaring that "it is a fine document . . . and it speaks well for the good sense and responsibility of the group." Furthermore, it represents, in the opinion of The Press, "the spirit of the great majority of the race."

Continuing, The Press says:

In the northern section of this State there have been considerable lawlessness and inter-racial strife during the past year. We are happy to say that in Mobile this has not been the case. This is due in no small measure to the sanity of Mobile's colored population. The resolution passed Tuesday is striking evidence of the desire of the colored people to abide by the laws of the State and nation and to prevent any hysterical occurrences in this section of Alabama.

In Mobile inter-racial relations have long been marked by a healthy understanding. The resolution should do much to promote the Christian attitude that is the real solution to all our problems.

Our colored people are putting less and less faith in the kind of agitation that is based on the doctrine of hate. They are opposed to the kind of fomentation that must lead inevitably to bitterness and actual strife. They make this plain in resolutions such as that published in The Mobile Register and The Mobile Press.

The group of colored leaders who signed the resolution are well within their rights when they ask for stauncher protection of the lives and property of all races and of all classes. Lawfulness depends upon the proper respect for the statutes from every type of citizen.

The law must be enforced without fear and without discrimination. The law is duty bound to punish crimes of every character, and that is all that the colored group of Mobile asks for.

Communism and similar programs based on race and class hatred can make no inroads in this city and section if our colored population consistently and faithfully lives up to the spirit and ethics of the resolution.

Every right-thinking resident of Mobile, regardless of race or class, must approve and subscribe to the ideas and beliefs that dictated the thoughtful and encouraging document.

The Advertiser joins with The Press in commending the resolution to all the people of both races in Alabama.

LET NEGROES DIE, SAYS JUDGE JONES

Urges Governor And Pardon Board Not To Interfere In Court Street Case

Judge Walter B. Jones yesterday urged Gov. Miller to let the law take its full course in the cases of George Meadows and Frank Jackson, Montgomery negroes convicted in Circuit Court on Sept. 21 of highway robbery and sentenced to electrocution in Kilby Prison on Oct. 27.

The trial judge said that in his judgment to commute the sentence of either of the defendants would be a mockery of justice. Judge Jones protested commutation after Gov. Miller had asked him for an expression in the matter of Jackson and Meadows.

The negroes, who are alleged to have attacked a young woman the night they robbed her companion, Robert Webb, of the extension of Court Street, have filed a petition with the Governor and State Pardon Board, asking for clemency. The application will be heard in the Governor's office Saturday morning.

Judge Jones's letter of protest to Gov. Miller and the Pardon Board follows: "Gentlemen:

"I am in receipt of your communication asking my views in the matter of the petition for commutation filed by George Meadows and Frank Jackson, who are under sentence of death for highway robbery and who were recently convicted of the same crime by a Montgomery County Jury. I beg to earnestly recommend that the law be allowed to take its full course in the cases of these two defendants.

"As far as the defendant George Meadows is concerned, he has admitted his crime and there was nothing else for him to do as the evidence against him was absolutely convincing.

"As to the defendant Frank Jackson, I do not think there is the shadow of any doubt as to his guilt. He was the robbery, took a big part in it, and was positively identified. The jury, from the evidence in the case, could not have done otherwise than to find each of these two defendants guilty as charged.

"The punishment of death imposed in this case is the only punishment commensurate with the offense committed by these two defendants. All the circumstances of the case show a most horrible and brutal robbery and outrage. I do not recall ever before trying a case where the circumstances were so outrageous to every sense of law and decency.

"In my judgment it would be a mockery of justice to commute the sentence of either of these defendants. They richly deserved the punishment fixed by the jury, and it would be a great blow to law and order in this county to in-

terfere in any way whatsoever with the verdict of the jury in this case.

"I therefore recommend that the sentences of death be carried out on the date fixed by the court."

DOOMED NEGROES SEEK CLEMENCY

Pair Sentenced In Court Street Robbery Appeal To Board

On petition by both condemned men made through counsel, Gov. Miller and the State Board of Pardons will hear applications for clemency of Frank Jackson and George Meadows, Montgomery County negroes, convicted Sept. 21 of highway robbery and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison Oct. 27.

The formal hearing of the application will be held in the Governor's office at the Capitol Saturday, Oct. 21, beginning at 10 a. m. Meadows and Jackson were arrested on charges of holding up at the point of a pistol and robbing Robert Webb, a young Montgomery white man and his girl companion, and attempting to criminally assault the latter following the robbery. The holdup occurred after nightfall on the extension of South Court Street within city limits.

Clever work on the part of the Montgomery Police Department resulted in the jailing of both negroes within a few days after the crime was committed. Jackson made a complete confession and declared he was assisted in the crime by Meadows. Both Mr. Webb and the young woman positively identified the two negroes as the perpetrators of the robbery and attempted attack.

Indicted at a special term of the Montgomery County Grand Jury, the two negroes were placed on trial on a charge of highway robbery, convicted, and sentenced to pay the death penalty, wish to make a statement. He replied that "Frank was with me when I did it." Those were his last words, and he referred to Frank Jackson, alleged accomplice in the crime.

The small execution room was filled to capacity with newspapermen, prison officials, and policemen. Robert Webb, the alleged accomplice, was present to witness the execution.

The electrocution of Meadows supplied a climax to an example of swift justice beginning with the negro's arrest on Sept. 12 by Police Officers T. H. Goins and A. J. Coker, and his confession to the crime that was perpetrated shortly after midnight on the morning of Sept. 6. Frank Jackson, the alleged accomplice of Meadows, escaped a similar death in the chair when his attorneys filed an appeal to the Supreme Court only four days ago.

Last Tuesday Gov. Miller and the

Doomed Negroes' Hearing Delayed

In view of the fact that one of the petitioners has a motion for new trial pending, Gov. Miller and the State Board of Pardons yesterday postponed until Tuesday at 10 a. m. hearing of the petitions for clemency of George Meadows and Frank Jackson, negroes convicted in Montgomery County and sentenced to death for holding up and robbing a young white couple last month, after nightfall, on the Court Street extension.

The motion for new trial was filed several days ago, through counsel, by Meadows, and is expected to be ruled on by Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones, some time tomorrow. Hearing of the clemency petitions of both condemned men was to have taken place at the capitol early yesterday. Judge Jones, who presided at the trials of the negroes, and Solicitor W. T. Seibels, have recommended to the Governor and the Pardon Board, that the death sentences imposed be carried out.

Meadows Dies In Kilby Prison Chair

Less than two months after he robbed Robert Webb and his young woman companion at the point of a pistol, and attempted to assault the latter on South Court Street extension, George Meadows, 27-year-old negro, expired in the electric chair at Kilby Prison today.

The negro was led into the death chamber at 12:05 and strapped in the chair. The first shock was administered at 12:10 and lasted 30 seconds. The second shock was administered at 12:17 and at 12:14 the prison physician pronounced the negro dead.

Just before being strapped to the death chair Meadows was asked if he wish to make a statement. He replied that "Frank was with me when I did it." Those were his last words, and he referred to Frank Jackson, alleged accomplice in the crime.

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Last Tuesday Gov. Miller and the

pardon board refused to interfere and preparations for the electrocution of Meadows were made.

MEADOWS TO DIE; JACKSON APPEALS

Governor Refuses To Commute Sentence For Confessed

Ruffian

George Meadows, Montgomery negro,

sentenced to death following his conviction of holding up and robbing at the point of a pistol, Robert Webb and his young woman companion and attempting to criminally assault the latter following the robbery, must pay with his life for his crime shortly after midnight tomorrow in the electric chair at Kilby Prison.

Gov. Miller, late yesterday, after receiving the report of the State Board of Pardons, in which members—Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., Secretary of State Pete B. Jarman, Jr., and State Auditor John Brandon—refused to recommend clemency for Meadows, issued a formal order denying commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment.

Execution of the death sentence imposed on Frank Jackson, jointly indicted and convicted with Meadows; who, Meadows declared in a confession made following his arrest, was his accomplice upon Webb's young woman companion, and companion in the robbery and attempted assault and who also was positively identified by Mr. Webb and the young woman—was automatically suspended when counsel gave notice yesterday of appeal to the Supreme Court of Alabama from action of Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones in denying Jackson's motion for a new trial.

In his official order denying commutation, Gov. Miller said: "This man—George Meadows—was convicted of highway robbery. He admits his guilt. The circumstances connected with it are horrible, outrageous, and brutal. The trial judge is opposed to clemency. The Board of Pardon unanimously recommend death sentence executed."

"So it is my opinion from the evidence that the application for commutation of death sentence to life imprisonment should be and is denied."

"So let judgment and sentence of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama, as to George Meadows, be enforced."

Meadows and Jackson were represented by John T. Sankey and N. T. Spann, Montgomery attorneys, as counsel.

JACKSON LOSES BID FOR NEW TRIAL

Judge Jones Declares Defendant Had Ample Time To Prepare Case

Judge Walter B. Jones yesterday denied the motion for a new trial for Frank Jackson, negro, condemned to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison Friday morning for robbery of Robert Webb on the Court Street extension. George Meadows, another negro, convicted with Jackson, also to pay with his life at the same time.

"Upon a full consideration of the matter, the court is of opinion that the grounds assigned in the motion for a new trial are not supported by the evidence, and that no legal reason has been advanced which would necessitate the granting of the motion," Judge Jones's decree read. "It is therefore ordered and adjudged that the motion for a new trial be and the same is hereby denied."

Attorneys John A. Sankey and N. T. Spann, who represented the two defendants at trial on Sept. 20, last week, filed motion for a new trial for Jackson, listing several reasons as grounds for action. Jackson has stoutly denied any connection with the robbery and attack upon Webb's young woman companion, and Meadows not only confessed but also implicated Jackson.

Meadows's petition for clemency will be heard by Gov. Miller and the State Board of Pardons at 10 a.m. today. The two negroes have been confined at Kilby since their conviction.

Time Deemed Ample
In his opinion Judge Jones said: "With reference to the contention that counsel for defendant did not have sufficient time to prepare for the defense of the accused, it appears from the records of the court that the defendant was indicted on Friday, Sept. 15, 1933. As soon as the indictment was returned into court, counsel were appointed for the defense and were present in court about two hours later when the defendant was arraigned. At that time no request was made of the court to delay the arraignment, and no suggestion was made that counsel would like opportunity for a longer time to consult with the defendant prior to the arraignment. Nor was any request made of the court when it set the cases for trial on Sept. 20, the Wednesday following the arraignment, to set the cases for a later date on the ground that counsel needed additional time to prepare their defense."

"At no time during the arraignment or prior to the day of the trial itself was any suggestion made to the court that counsel would need additional time. It appears from the testimony of Mr. Sankey, one of the defense counsel, that he had ample opportunity in the period elapsing between the arraignment and the trial to confer with his client, and did confer with him on several occasions. The attorney testified that he did not

know of any material witnesses that he failed to summon for the defense and examine on the trial, although he stated there were perhaps one or two more character witnesses that he would have liked to have had. It appears without dispute that the crime was committed within two or three miles of the courthouse and within approximately a mile of where the defendant lived, and that every material witness in the case was subpoenaed, appeared in court, and was examined by counsel for the defense on the stand. . . .

Juror's Question Called
"On the whole evidence introduced before the court it is the opinion of the court that the able counsel assigned the defendant had ample opportunity to prepare his defense and did prepare and present it before the jury in a creditable manner."

"Ground two of the motion for the new trial is based on a question asked by one of the jurors, Mr. Ingalls, during the trial of the case. The question that this jurymen asked is not correctly stated in the motion for a new trial, and it appears from the transcript of the official court reporter that the question the jurymen asked was this: 'I just wondered if it was necessary to bring the young lady in.'"

"This question was asked after the solicitor had stated before the jury what the State expected to prove, after the defendant's statement of his defense, and one witness had been examined. The question was asked voluntarily by the jurymen, and the court does not take the view that this question showed that the juror's mind was biased, or that he had any prejudice against the defendant. It is evident that the purpose of this question to the court was, not that the juror had made up his mind one way or the other, but merely that he wished that the young woman might be spared the embarrassment of appearing in the case, if this could be done legally and in all justice to the fair trial of the cause."

"At the time this question was asked neither of the counsel for the defendant took any notice of it. They did not make a motion that the cause be taken from the jury, and a mistrial declared. Neither did they ask the trial judge to take any action in the premises. And the court is of opinion that the asking of this question, 'I just wondered if it was necessary to bring the young lady in,' did not indicate any bias or prejudice on the part of this juror making the inquiry."

"With reference to the seventh ground contained in the motion for a new trial, in regard to the argument made by W. W. Hill, assisting the prosecution, in his speech to the jury, it does not appear that counsel for the defense made any objection whatever to the argument while it was being made, and it appears they did not ask any corrective action by the court. The court is of opinion that the argument used, if the jury believed the State's evidence, was legitimate argument. It does not fall within that line of argument which is regarded as poisonous and prejudicial that the mere making of the argument, without objection by the defendant, is error in and of itself."

17 Negroes Start Prison Sentences

Seventeen prisoners, all negroes, were sentenced to penitentiary terms yesterday morning by Judge Walter B. Jones. They had been convicted or had pleaded guilty in Circuit Court last week. With few exceptions, the negroes drew terms of two years or less. Shortly after the sentences were imposed the prisoners were sent to Kilby Prison.

The sentences follow: Sam Bullock, transporting liquor, 18 to 19 months; Dan Steele, assault to murder, three to four years; Mose Stinson, alias Nathan Springer, manufacturing liquor, 13 to 19 months; J. C. Ballard, grand larceny, 14 to 20 months; C. W. Brown, alias C. D. Brown, transporting liquor, two to three years; S. B. Brown and Eddie Smith, burglary, 18 to 24 months; Robert Goodwyn, burglary, two to three years, and burglary and grand larceny, two to three years; George Harris, grand larceny and receiving stolen property, 13 to 19 months.

Also Robert Harris, burglary and grand larceny, three to four years; Willie Harris, grand larceny, four to five years; Sam Elmore, grand larceny, three and one-half to four years; Elnora Smith, grand larceny, three to four years; Jim Jackson, burglary and larceny, two and a half to three years; John Jackson, grand larceny, 18 to 24 months; Willie Jane Jackson, grand larceny, two to three years; Joe Love, grand larceny, 13 to 19 months.

THE CONVICT-FEE SYSTEM

To the Editor The News:

Relative to the fee system: The writer was approached by an official of Talladega County, urging that his influence be used with a member of the Legislature to defeat the bill then pending to abolish the fee system. The reply was that the bill was along the right line and should be enacted into law, as the fee system increased the number of convicts; information was that it cost the state \$15 for every convict sent to Kilby; and many were convicted solely for the purpose of collecting a fee.

The fee system is the graft of the inferior officer, and the poor devil without friends at court does not have the show of a rabbit to escape conviction. The combination of officials is against acquittal. This combination can only be broken up by an organization of the people who pay taxes. The fee system is only one branch of the organization of officials in Alabama, and the iniquitous effect of this combination is far-reaching as well as very costly to the taxpayers of the state.

The writer sees no possible escape from the heavy burden of taxation without an organized effort of all the people to bring about a change in the present system of government. This change must begin by electing to the Legislature men who are honest and fearless, and who are determined to kick loose the horde of unnecessary officials at Montgomery. We must elect as governor a man of executive ability, and not a politician.

Alabama can easily eliminate the Department of Agriculture, as this department serves no worthwhile purpose, but is very costly to the taxpayer. Along with the Department of Agriculture can be added the extension service, which is a political machine organized to perpetuate some 80-odd persons in a soft job, at the people's expense. A million dollars can be saved annually by elimination of these excrescences. Quite a nice little sum can be saved by abolishing the Public Service Commission, but a greater saving in expense of govern-

ment can be had by overhauling the educational system than in any other department of the state. G. T. McFERRY, Talladega, Ala.

Crime - 1933

Alabama

2 Negroes Must Die In Chair On Robbery Count

Pair In Assault Case Here
Draw Extreme Penalty
In Fast One-Day Trial

To Die Oct. 27

Jury Returns Verdict At
12:08 A. M., Following
53-Minute Deliberation

George Meadows, 27, and Frank Jackson, 22, Montgomery negroes, were sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison on Oct. 27 for the robbery of Robert Webb, traveling salesman, and his young woman companion on the South Court Street extension Sept. 5, by a Circuit Court jury that reported to Judge Walter B. Jones early today after 53 minutes' deliberation.

The jury received the case at 11:15 p.m. before a crowded courtroom and at 12:08 a.m. today they had reached a verdict. Judge Jones cautioned the spectators against a demonstration and Clerk Henry N. Hughes read the verdict. The judge ordered the defendants to stand up and pronounced the death sentences.

The negroes were indicted by a special Grand Jury last week for robbery, assault to murder, and criminal attack and the State elected to try them first for robbery.

The jury that convicted the negroes comprised John T. Baggett, Clifton A. Fonville, Warren F. Dent, Jr., G. W. Tobias, Charles E. Ingalls, H. A. McConville, Fred L. Ridolphi, Z. R. Tew, Lester Campbell, Thomas H. Cook, Thomas C. Embry, and Pat J. Hogan.

Goes To Jury at 11:15

Conclusion of the trial came at 11:15 o'clock last night after more than 12 hours of testimony and arguments during which Webb and the girl both positively identified the two negroes as the ones who held them up, robbed Webb and attempted to assault the girl.

Details of the fight by moonlight on the South Court Street extension the night of Sept. 7 were spread over the court records by Webb and his companion, both of whom betrayed visible

signs of emotion from the witness stand. The young woman's examination was comparatively short, but she appeared on the verge of collapse several times.

In concluding arguments late last night, Solicitor Temple Seibels and his assistant prosecutor, Will Hill, delivered ringing appeals for the death sentence, while Defense Attys. John Sankey and Norman Spann urged that Jackson be freed, leaving Meadows's fate in the hands of the jury without comment other than to mention that he had confessed.

Earlier in the day, Judge Jones overruled a motion by the defense for a continuance of the case on the grounds that the defense had not had time to prepare an adequate case and that the public mind had been inflamed by newspaper articles and other attendant publicity surrounding the case. Hearing on this motion took up the entire morning session following selection of a jury, and hearing of testimony was begun at 2:30 p.m., after the noon recess.

Hundreds around Courthouse

Hundreds of spectators crowded the courtroom and corridors and milled about outside of the courthouse long before the trial opened at 10 a.m. When court was called to order, Judge Jones ordered all spectators who could not find seats excluded from the hearing. Despite the throngs about the buildings all day, Sheriff Sam Stearns and a force of 30 deputies and city officers maintained almost perfect order throughout the entire hearing. Once or twice spectators in the courtroom were called down for laughing.

Jackson and Meadows were brought into court a few minutes before 10 a.m., escorted by Sheriff Stearns, Chief Deputy Scogin, and a dozen other officers. The negroes were handcuffed together.

George Meadows, referred to throughout the trial as the "yellow" negro on account of the light color of his skin, admitted on the stand under questioning by Mr. Sankey that he and Jackson were the ones who held up Webb at the point of a gun and robbed him, although the negro stoutly denied the attacks upon the young woman. Meadows's earlier confession, in which he admitted having County Jail before several officers and assaulted the young woman, was read upon the stand by D. W. W. Fuller, court reporter, who took it down when it was made at the county jail, before a dozen officers, shortly after Meadows's arrest several days ago.

Jackson Claims Alibi

The other negro, Jackson, claimed an alibi, however, and the attorneys introduced several negro witnesses, including Jackson's wife, in an effort to prove that Jackson spent the entire night at his home on the night of the robbery. White character witnesses also were introduced in behalf of Jackson.

Webb, the first State witness, told how the negroes walked up on opposite sides of his automobile when it stopped on the South Court Street extension the night of Sept. 5 and ordered him out at the point of a gun. Both of the negroes had pistols, it was shown. Webb said

that he first was robbed of his pocket-book, containing \$19.55, and that then the negroes searched him and his companion into a cornfield. There, Webb declared, Jackson called the girl to him and ordered her to lie down. When she refused, the negro knocked her down. At this point Webb said, he grappled with the Meadows negro and, during the struggle, Meadows's gun was discharged. Meadows admitted on the stand that the pistol was discharged, but claimed that it just "shot itself."

Webb Describes Crime

Webb said that, after Jackson attempted to attack the girl, she ran to the automobile and that Meadows caught her, forced her to the ground, and attempted to assault her. Shortly after that both of the negroes fled, and Webb and his companion got in the car, drove to a home in Capitol Heights where officers were notified, and Dr. Clarendon Weil was summoned to care for the girl.

Dr. Weil later testified that his examination of the young woman indicated that she had not been criminally assaulted, but that an attempt had been made.

Webb said he recognized the Meadows negro in the County Jail here after the negro had been arrested, and that he (Webb) struck the negro but was halted from further violence by the officers present.

The young woman's testimony corroborated Webb's in practically every respect. The attorneys did not attempt to elicit detailed answers to their questions and her remarks were confined largely to yes and no.

Officer Goins Testifies

City Police Officer T. H. Goins, who, with his partner, Officer A. J. Coker, arrested Meadows and Jackson, and later found Webb's watch, some of the girl's clothing, and pistols in the houses of the two negroes, was placed on the stand to describe his and Coker's part in tracking down the negroes. All of these articles were displayed in court as exhibits. Meadows's alleged confession, made in writing before several officers and later transcribed by Mr. Fuller, was the subject of considerable controversy during the hearing. Mr. Fuller and other officers testified that no violence was threatened or reward promised to Meadows and asserted he described his part in the arrest fairly willingly after the stolen articles had been found in his house.

The Jackson negro, placed on the stand by the defense, denied all charges and told a stirring tale of being spreadeagled on the jail floor, with officers standing on his feet and hands and beating him with a bat. Later testimony by officers contradicted all of this.

Webb's testimony had been impeached. Presentation of the State's evidence was completed in little more than an hour

and the only witnesses were Webb, the young woman, Fuller, and Goins.

Negro Denies Attacking Girl

When Meadows took the stand as the first defense witness, he told of his part in the holdup but repudiated that part of his confession at the jail about the attack, and denied he or Jackson attacked the young woman. Solicitor Seibels drew from him a story that Meadows and Jackson went to the spot on South Court Street and sat there an hour waiting for an automobile to drive up so that they could rob the occupants. He admitted taking the money from Webb's pockets, fighting with Webb, and firing his pistol.

Jackson flatly denied his alleged part in the crime and produced a string of witnesses to prove that he was at home that night.

The defense rested and the State ended rebuttal testimony at 7:30 p.m. Arguments started at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Hill, speaking first for the State, condemned the crime as "a scheme concocted by fiends," and declared that "such depravity is hard to believe, even among savages." He described Jackson's alibi as a "house built on sand" and demanded the death penalty for both negroes. He spoke 25 minutes and then Attorney Spann talked nearly an hour, stressing the inability of the defense to create a case in such a short time. He spoke at length on Jackson's good record and urged leniency for him. Sankey followed Spann with a speech along the same lines.

Seibels Demands Chair

Solicitor Seibels, in his closing argument for the State, reviewed the case and also insisted on the death penalty for the negroes. He branded Jackson a liar about the alleged "third degree" at the jail, attacked the negro's character witnesses, and congratulated Officers Coker and Goins on their successful solution of the affair.

Judge Jones delivered a lengthy charge, in which he called attention to the fact that the courtroom was a sacred place in which all barriers of race, creed, or religion were excluded, and that the black man had the same chance as a white man. He urged the jurors to debate fully the evidence and render a just verdict.

The courtroom was packed all day, and when the verdict was brought in shortly after midnight this morning, every seat was occupied. Good order was maintained and there were no signs of unrest or disorder.

Attack Suspects On Trial Today

Two Negroes To Be Tried
In Robbery Case First;
Defense To Ask Delay

George Meadows and Frank Jackson, negroes accused of attacking a young white woman and robbing her companion, Robert Webb, on the South Court Street extension, will go on trial on the robbery charge first in Montgomery Circuit Court this morning. It was learned yesterday. Court will convene at 10 a.m., with Judge Walter B. Jones presiding.

Special details of county officers and city police will be on duty in and about the courthouse during the trial. No requests have been made for troops. It was learned from a reliable source that special precautions will be taken to see that armed spectators are barred from the courtroom.

It had been rumored that the general public would be excluded from the trial, but Judge Jones said yesterday that such a ruling would be illegal in a robbery trial. Spectators will be admitted until all seats in the courtroom are filled, he said, but no one will be allowed to stand.

Attorney N. T. Spann, who with Attorney John Sankey was appointed by the court to defend the negroes indicated yesterday defense counsel will seek a continuance when the case is called this morning. Continuance probably will be sought on the ground that they desire more time in which to prepare their case, only five days having elapsed since they were appointed and the negroes were arraigned.

The defense attorneys will attempt to prove an alibi for Jackson, named by Meadows in his confession as his confederate and principal in the crime. Jackson, however, has denied all knowledge of the crime despite identification by Webb and the insistence of Meadows.

The two negroes were indicted by the Grand Jury last week for robbery, assault to murder and attack upon the young woman. The decision to try them on the robbery count first is believed to have been made in order to spare the young woman the ordeal of testifying about the attack. Robbery is a capital offense in Alabama.

NEGROES AND CRIME

Mayor Gunter's appeal to the decent Negro citizenship in connection with the recent robbery and attempted assault upon a white woman which occurred in this city, had its reward in the effective cooperation of the responsible Negroes of our community.

This cooperation led to the arrest of two men suspected of having committed the crime and the reported confession of one of them.

This is the way for whites and blacks to get along comfortably and safely together. Here in the South white men control government, to be sure, but it is the duty of law-abiding Negroes to cooperate at all times with the agents of the law in running down the criminal Negro as well as the criminal white.

Nothing could do more to put the Negro in a new light before all the people than for all the people to realize that the responsible Negro citizen is as hostile to the Negro criminal as the white man is.

Bad people of every kind must be put under the control of law and society. Blacks and whites owe it to themselves to cooperate to this noble end.

Tusculum, Ala., News

September 17, 1933

Editorial Of The Day

(The Dothan Eagle)

SEEMS TO BE GENERAL

DID you know that Baldwin County, Alabama, is approximately 75 miles long? and that Foley, Ala. is further south than Pensacola, Fla.? And did you know that on a population basis Covington County people commit several times as much murder as the people of Chicago? And did you know that we have yet to execute a white man from Covington county and that it has been longer than gray-haired citizens of this county can remember since we executed a negro for murder? Time to shorten the long corners of this county by turning a new leaf.—Opp Weekly News.

All of which is a unique record. The death penalty handed a murderer is a harsh thing—but so is murder itself.

Executing murderers may or may not be a restraining influence for potential killers, but there is no doubt that it is a deterrent for the murderer who is put to death.

Alabama at present seems to have an epidemic of Negro rapers. It began with the Scottsboro case, but the only ones who have been put to death were two who were lynched. Can the fact that the long delays of court action have any bearing on the epidemic?

We believe that these delays, appeals, verdicts set aside and other legal red tape, coupled with the

odious activities of the I. L. D. have had their bad effect.

And the fact that so few cold-blooded killers ever get the extreme penalty also is unwholesome.

There have been killers in Covington county who should have been put to death, but Covington county should not feel conspicuous. The entire country seems to be in a similar state.

Two Negroes Get Death Sentences For \$19.55 Robbery in Alabama

(Special to The New York Age)

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Lynch- ing by "due process of law" is once again the accusation hurled at "Alabama justice" which last week sent to the electric chair George Meadows, 27, and Frank Jackson, 22, following a swift trial lasting 12 hours, a verdict whisked through by a white jury in 53 minutes and an immediate sentence of death by Circuit Court Judge Walter B. Jones, who had listened attentively to information from the rapid Grand Jury indictment of Meadows and Jackson on charges of "rob- bery, assault to murder and crim- inal attack." The verdict and sen- tence were both pronounced on Thursday, September 21, and the prisoners are to die in Kilby Pris- on on October 27.

Favorable Court Testimony.

Attorneys John Sankey and Nor- man Spann, both white, put up a weak defense, it is believed simply urging the release of Jackson as innocent, but leaving the fate of Meadows with the jury, stating that their client had confessed to the robbery and asking leniency. The attorneys told the court that sufficient time had not been allow- ed for them to prepare their de- fense.

Robert Webb, a white travelling salesman and a white woman com- panion, were the complainants against Meadows and Jackson. Webb himself testified that no as- sault was made upon his female companion but only an attempt and Dr. Clarence Well, white, also testified that according to his ex- amination immediately after the al- leged attack he found no evidence to support the criminal charge.

Webb testified that the two col- ored men held him up with a gun and robbed him of \$19.55 on the South Court street extension on September 5, and that both men threw his companion to the ground for the purpose of assaulting her.

Jackson Proves Alibi.

Jackson persistently denied all the charges, declaring that he was at home with his family during the entire night of the robbery. Several Negroes of proven char- acter including Jackson's wife, tes- tified in support of Jackson's state- ment, and several well known white citizens testified in his behalf as character witnesses. Nevertheless he was convicted.

Meadows admitted the robbery on the witness stand, but stoutly denied that he made any attempt to assault the white woman. Po- lice officers said they found a gun and Webb's watch and other prop- erty in Meadow's home. Webb is reported to have beaten Meadows at the jail when he went there to identify him; officers forced him to desist. This was the night Meadows signed an alleged con- fession to all the charges, but re- pudiated the "attack" story when he testified in court.

Jackson said that the officers put him through a barbaric "third de- gree" by stretching him out on the jail floor and standing on his hands and feet and beating him with a slat. The jail officers de- nied his story.

Judge Denies Prejudice.

Judge Jones in his lengthy charge to the jury referred to the courtroom as a sacred place in the State prison system has now which all barriers of race, creed or religion were excluded. An hour later, in total disregard of the hour-and-a-half plea of the defense for leniency for the prisoners, he coldly pronounced upon them the sentence of death.

Commenting editorially upon the case, "The Montgomery Advertis- er," white daily, under the date of September 21, said in part: "Mont- gomery County was at its best in its conduct of the trial".....Here was a situation that appealed pow- erfully to the mob spirit. Men and

women were stirred deeply by what had occurred. Yet our Montgom- ery people restrained themselves. They believed that the law could be trusted to do its full duty.... There does not seem to be any ground for reasonable doubt of the guilt of these men. The fact that they were indicted quickly and tried quickly is no evidence that they were railroaded."

NEW YORK TIMES

OCT 1 1933 ALABAMA WORRIED BY PRISON PROBLEM

Hawes-Cooper Act Will Cut

Deep Into Funds Needed
for Convict Care.

LAW NOW BEING TESTED

State Seeking Way to Utilize

Prisoners' Labor on Road
Building at Least.

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2D.

Special Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 28.—

Although the Birmingham police force is complaining that its efforts

to lower the local crime rate are

complicated by the large number of

State prisoners who have been re-

leased on parole, as well as by the

recent escape of other prisoners

from county jails, the keepers of

Alabama's fiscal accounts are in-

clined to observe, somewhat bitter-

ly, that the parole or escape of com-

plained. The mere earning of keep is not

of course, the sum total of all that

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Given adequate funds, this State

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States Supreme Court in protest

at a measure as sound in

the law as the Hawes-Cooper Act,

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nize the fiscal difficulties which the

act is sure to aggravate

System Was Profitable.

In 1927, during the administration of Governor Bibb Graves, the sys- tem of leasing State convicts for work in the coal mines, lumber mills and turpentine camps was abolished. Inhumane as this sys- tem was, it had been highly profit- able from a financial standpoint. After its abolition the State turned to road work for convict employ- ment and developed a number of prison industries whose products are being sold to outside manufac- turers.

Because of its excellent record in the method of using convicts for highway building and maintenance, Alabama is still inclined to hope that a new way may be found for extending this work when the Hawes-Cooper Act closes other ex- isting means of profitable employ- ment.

Gasoline Tax Supplies Funds.

A possible means of financing convict labor on Alabama highways is the 6-cent State gasoline tax. At present half of this revenue goes to the State and the other half is distributed equally among the six- ty-seven counties. The counties are supposed to use the money on their county road systems, but it is not always so employed and even when it is there are many duplications and wastes in the uses of both machinery and men. If the counties can be persuaded to turn their share of the money over to the State and let the State undertake all county road work with convict labor, it is believed that an enor- mous saving might be accom- plished.

The mere earning of keep is not of course, the sum total of all that is to be desired for the 1,750 whites and 3,600 Negroes constituting Ala- bama's normal prison population. Given adequate funds, this State might properly undertake a much greater measure of rehabilitation of its prisoners than has been at- tempted heretofore. But until such funds are in sight, the bare cost of convict maintenance is going to be a problem. Even though a great many Alabamians hate to see their Attorney General before the United States Supreme Court in protest at a measure as sound in the law as the Hawes-Cooper Act, none here is forced to recog- nize the fiscal difficulties which the act is sure to aggravate

Crime-1933

Arkansas.

ARKANSAS WHITES COMMIT STATE'S "WORST CRIME"

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark., Mar. 30.

—(ANP)—What has been termed as "Arkansas' most revolting crime" was revealed here last Sunday night when Sheriff J. L. Bell went to the home of S. McWharter, an farmer over some trivial matter.

One of them struck him down with a hammer and becoming alarmed she ran from the house to a neighboring farmhouse and gave the alarm. Neighbors rushed to the McWharter home in time to capture the assailants who were just about to leave the place.

Due to the fact that all of the parties are white, there was no talk of lynching and the men were brought here and placed in the local jail without any interference. Harsh criticism has been made, but that is all. Had the assailants been Negroes the story, however, would have perhaps read differently.

ARKANSAS WILL PROBE PRISON CRUELTY CLAIM

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Aug. 9.—

(P)—Governor Futrell said today he would instruct the state penitentiary board to inquire into charges made by Freddie Frenchie, former negro convict, that he was severely beaten by a guard at Cummins prison farm while assistant superintendent Tom Cogbill stood by and watched it.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Aug. 9.—(P)

Admitting that Freddie Frenchie, negro former convict, was whipped at prison camp No. 3 by Guard Ben Maddox, Superintendent T. G. Cogbill, of Cummins prison farm, said today the punishment was administered after Frenchie had been warned several times to stay away from the prison camps and the superintendent had been informed the negro had made threats he would "get" Cogbill and Maddox. Cogbill denied, however, he was present when the negro was whipped.

WHITE CHICKEN THIEVES 3 STEAL NEW BREED OF FOWL

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 19. — (ANP) — Following a trail of blood from the chicken house of Chester Amidon, 630 N. Orange avenue, two local Burbank policemen located a pair of asserted turken thieves and arrested them on charges of suspicion of burglary and liquor possession.

Chances
The latter charge was made against the men, Clarence R. Kandit and Dave C. Spreknel, next door neighbors of Amidon, when the officers uncovered two gallons of wine, two bottles of beer and two pints of whisky in their search for Amidon's missing fowls. Two of the four turkens Amidon reported stolen are also said to have been recovered.

Patrolmen
The liquor charge was the first made under Burbank's old liquor ordinance, which was resurrected after the Wright Act was abolished. The men are held under \$150 bail each for a hearing at 10 a. m. Tuesday.

A turken is a new breed of fowl recently developed by crossing chickens and turkeys, resulting in a large fowl delicious for eating.

Crime-1933

D.C.

POLICE BRUTALITY GREATER MENACE THAN REDS, DECLARES CIVIC GROUP

Release 4-21-33
Northwest Association Protests to Captain of No. 2
Precinct and Major Brown Against Beating
of Government Employee

—attack and he promised an investigation. Nothing has been heard of beating of citizens by police of the result of his probe.

District was termed a greater menace than so-called Reds or Communists by the Central Northwest Civic Association at a meeting held recently.

The association addressed a set of resolutions to Captain Joseph W. Pearson, of No. 2 Precinct Station and Superintendent of Police, Major Brown, protesting against the recent beating of Major Jones by 2 officers last March 6.

When first arrested Jones was charged with "parading without a permit" and police sought to connect him with a so-called Red demonstration downtown, but when officers found that Jones was a government employee and not only had nothing to do with the parade, but did not even know there was a parade, they changed the charge to assault and disorderly conduct.

The latter charge against him was dismissed and the former was not pressed last week.

Brutality Scored

The association in its resolution scored brutal police and stated that "while this association holds no briefs for Communists or so-called Reds, we believe the use of unnecessary force by policemen and the violation of positive instructions laid down in the police manual are more of a menace to the American jurisprudence than peacefully parading the public streets without a permit."

Jones was leaving a barber shop a few doors from the office of the Washington Tribune when he was set on by two officers and brutally beaten, kicked and dragged into the precinct. Although on the ground 2 policemen who assaulted him continued to rain blows on his body. He was actually kicked into the precinct door while helpless and hundreds were looking on.

So brutal and uncalled for was the attack that a Tribune reporter called the office of Major Brown, police superintendent, who sent Inspector Headley to the scene. Inspector Headley was told of the

Women, Bravery, Freedom

Tom Heflin, deposed senator and widely exploited politician from the state of Alabama, once referred to women as the "crowning glory of God's creation." One who knows or knows of the hefty Alabamian whose holiday was incident to the reign of the Ku Klux Klan need not be reminded that Heflin's reference had to do with white women. He was and is admittedly a Negro-hater.

But there are those of us who feel that our weaker sex is comprised of all that is great and good and deserving of the highest type of respect. We too look upon our women with high regard.

Then there is an aged ditty which says something about a "land of the free and the home of the brave."

Many years have elapsed since that line was written. But history brings the past up to and in contact with the present.

In this "land of the brave" where women are the "crowning glory of God's creation" two policemen—either drunk with liquor or with authority—force their way into the privacy of a sober residence where two lone women, one a grandmother of two children, cringe at the sounds of their masculine voices. In the half-darkness of a semi-lighted room one of the policemen encounters the woman who has seen nearly seventy years of racial oppression with never an experience of having the forces of the law visited upon her.

He takes from her a weapon with which she armed herself when she became fearful of the type of characters she knew to be breaking into her house.

Thus disarmed she became his prey. A severe beating was administered her before she was dragged by the hair outside the house to a waiting patrol.

Another example of white treatment of the "crowning glory of God's creation." Another illustration of "braveness in the birthplace of freedom."

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
October 26, 1933

Heavy Bonds Set for Three

Aggregate for Three Negroes More Than
\$240,000.

Booker T. Coney, Lewis Sanders and Sanders' wife, Lulu, negroes yesterday were held under bonds aggregating more than \$240,000 on charges of assault with intent to murder and highway robbery. The bonds were fixed at preliminary hearings yesterday before Judges M. B. Craig, R. E. Copeland and Walter A. Ellis, justices of the peace.

The negro men are charged in warrants with four cases of assault with intent to murder and more than 15 cases of highway robbery. Detectives H. Haltiwanger and S. J. Burkhalter, arresting officers said, while the woman is charged with six cases of highway robbery.

Judge Craig held the two negro men under bonds of \$2,000 each on one case of highway robbery; Judge Ellis set bonds aggregating \$135,000 on nine highway robbery charges and two of assault to murder while Judge Copeland set bonds of \$90,000 on the remainder of the cases, it was stated. The woman is held under bonds aggregating \$15,000 on six charges of highway robbery.

The negroes, the officers said admitted more than 15 cases of robbery and four cases of assault to murder. The two detectives, with Patrolmen S. Newsom and A. N. Jones worked up the cases against the negroes and with their arrest police believe they have broken up a long series of highway robberies in the northwest section of the city.

Sholtz Suggests Chicago Judge Keep Criminals



GOV. DAVE SHOLTZ

Florida Governor Would Be
Happy To Swap Off
His Convicts

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 9.—(AP)—The efforts of Judge Alfred O. Erickson, of Chicago, to prevent extradition of James A. Larue to Florida as an escaped convict drew from Gov. Dave Sholtz tonight a telegraphed message that "If you want to keep him..... that's your privilege."

In a telegram to Judge Erickson, the Governor said the Florida prison "is filled with criminals from other States, and not Floridians" and he added: "If you have any Florida boys in prison up there, I would be willing to trade you for them, giving four to one."

Larue, who escaped while serving a five-year sentence for robbery in Dade County charged at his extradition hearing before Judge Erickson that he was mistreated in Florida prison camps. The judge promised him "every break" in his effort to escape return to finish his sentence, on which he has served four months.

Judge Thinks Governor Ought To Keep Quiet

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—(AP)—Judge Alfred O. Erickson, of Chicago, who told James A. Larue, fugitive from a Florida chain gang, he would see he got a break, tonight expressed the opinion "it was wholly unjust to the boy" for Gov. Dave Sholtz, of Florida, to comment on the case.

Dispatches from Florida quoted a message being sent by the Governor to the Judge.

Larue, Judge Erickson pointed out, will be given a hearing Dec. 14 on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Gov. Henry Horner already has honored a move to extradite him to Florida.

"I haven't received the telegram," Judge Erickson said, referring to the message from Gov. Sholtz, "but I think it is wholly unjust to the boy to say anything about the case one way or the other until his hearing."

Judge Erickson said he believed there was "a lot of good in the boy" and he was sorry the message had been made public.

Larue told Judge Erickson he had been given cruel treatment in a road camp near Miami and that he had a wife and baby dependent upon him. He declined to disclose their whereabouts.

Judge Erickson said he believed the sentence of five years which had been imposed upon Larue in Florida was too severe for the offense charged.

FLORIDA FUGITIVE ORDERED BACK

DESPITE TALES OF CRUEL GANG

Judge Promises Larue 'Every Break in World' But Fails to Help Him

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Dec. 7 (AP)—Governor Horner tonight honored Florida's requisition for James A. Larue, 27, who escaped from a chain-gang there. The extradition papers were signed by the governor within two hours after a hearing before Dewitt Billman, secretary of the legislative reference bureau. Larue's attorney said removal to Florida would be opposed by a habeas corpus writ at Chicago.

Judge Is Sympathetic

CHICAGO, Dec. 7 (AP)—James A. Larue's story of tortures while serving time on a Florida chain-gang won for him today a promise from a judge for "every break in the world" in opposing extradition to the southern state.

Larue, 27 years old, has four and one-half years of a five-year sentence left to serve. He told Judge Alfred O. Erickson of criminal court

gang camp last April 15, Larue has been charged in Chicago with a burglary, but the complainant, Mrs. Alberta Clawson, appeared in court today and declared she believed him innocent.

She said \$500 worth of jewelry was stolen from her home shortly after Larue had been employed there at odd jobs, but that subsequent developments had convinced her that Larue was not the thief.

Larue said he drove to Miami in August, 1932, and obtained work with a real estate firm. He said he lived in one of a number of cottages owned by the company and that one night "out of curiosity" he climbed through a window of one of the other houses. He claimed he took nothing.

Miss Rheba Forbes, British author, visiting here, became interested in Larue's case several days ago and retained Attorney Greenville Beardsley to defend him. She listened to Larue's story and then declared it "the worst kind of cruelty for a man of his type to be incarcerated there."

Larue said he escaped by weakening the chains that bound his legs with a file smuggled to him by an Indian squaw. He said he lived in the swamps for days, eating berries, traveling by night, and hiding in mosquito-infested bushes during the days.

Larue said he was committed to the state road camp No. 44, at Indian Town, Fla., October 20, 1932.

that the sentence was imposed in Dade county, Fla., because he broke into a deserted house "just out of curiosity." He was sentenced for burglary.

"I could tell stories about the chain-gang that would make your blood run cold," Larue said. "One day out of every week I was put in 'the hog box.' It was a tiny board shack where the sun blistered me all day and the swamp winds made me ache with the cold all night."

Judge's Son Had Trouble

Judge Erickson continued the case until tomorrow. Later in the day at Springfield, Ill., Gov. Henry Horner honored Florida's demand that Larue be returned to that state to complete his sentence. The governor signed the extradition papers after a hearing before Dewitt Billman, secretary of the legislative reference bureau.

"I'll give you every possible break in the world," the judge said. "I know how they treat northerners down there in Florida. Five years ago my son was arrested for some difficulty about an automobile license. I had great difficulty to enlist the services of the attorney gaining his liberty and finally had general."

Since he escaped from the chain-

Decision On Writ To Free Florida Convict Delayed

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—(AP)—Chief Justice Philip J. Finnegan today postponed until Tuesday decision on the habeas corpus action brought to prevent the return of James Larue, fugitive from a chain gang, to Florida.

Larue appeared in court with his wife and year-old son. He also claimed that Mrs. Helen Larue of Muskegon, Mich., was his wife.

The Muskegon woman had written Judge Alfred O. Erickson who at first espoused the cause of Larue and then figuratively "washed his hands" of the case after he said Larue had lied to him, that she had recognized Larue from newspaper pictures.

Counsel for Larue opposed his extradition on technical grounds. Greenville Beardsley, employed by Rosita Forbes, an English writer, who first came to the fugitive's aid, said the Florida warrant was not in proper form.

He said it lacked details of where the crime was committed, a copy of indictment, affidavits of witnesses to the crime and so forth. Larue had served part of a five-year sentence for breaking and entering at Miami, Fla., and then escaped.

Judge Finnegan ordered written briefs to be filed before he makes his decision.

Jurist 'Washes Hands' Of Florida Fugitive

CHICAGO, Dec. 11.—(AP)—Judge Alfred O. Erickson of the South State street court tonight said he "washed his hands" of the affairs of James A. La Rue, fugitive from a Florida chain gang.

The judge, after espousing the cause of La Rue for a week, changed his opinion he said, when advised that United States bureau of criminal investigation records disclosed that La Rue was known as a habitual criminal.

The records listed arrests on charges of stealing an automobile; for burglary, and for carrying concealed weapons. La Rue fled Florida after serving part of a five-year sentence for burglary.

"La Rue lied to me," the judge said tonight. "He abused my confidence and now I wash my hands of the whole affair. While I think that the punishment in his case is too severe, I believe all law violators should be punished and be made to pay a just penalty for crime."

Earlier in the day—before revelation of the federal records—the judge penned an answer to Florida's governor in which he commended the state's executive for "shut off another case because it would expose the cruelty of the Florida chain gang."

RIGHTFUL INDIGNATION.

subjected to cruel treatment.

There will be general sympathy It is time that the mistaken gov- with the recently expressed indig-ernors and courts of other states nation of Governor Sholtz, of Flor-who have refused to honor extra-rida, over the derogatory remarks of lition from the south should realize a Chicago judge, who in attempt- ing to block the extradition of an riminals they are not only thwart- escaped prisoner to Florida, prom- ing the cause of justice but put- ised the felon "every break" in his- ing their own citizens in leonardv. effort to beat the law.

The attitude of the Chicago court is aggravated by the fact that the prisoner in question has had a long record of crime, with numer- ous convictions.

Governor Sholtz in his reply to Judge Erickson makes a clear pres- by a municipal judge and backed by a entation of the difficult task faced sympathetic novelist, James A. LaRue by Florida in the control of wan- held new hope, might that he could defeat Florida justice and remain a who turn their feet southward each fugitive from a Dade County chain gang winter in order to take advantage "I wish I were as sure of long life as you are of freedom," Judge Alfred O. Erickson told the 27-year-old prisoner as he forbade his removal from the Florida penitentiary, State for 24 hours. Later in the day Chief Justice Philip J. Finnegan in Crim- inal Court granted a habeas corpus writ holding LaRue in the state's custody until a full hearing Dec. 14.

He points out that of the 2,000 as men in the Florida penitentiary, most of them are from other states and that their depredations have not been largely against tourists and Florida people. The efforts of the state are therefore more the protection of those from other states than for its own people.

There may have been some re- grettable harshness in the maintain- ing of discipline in the Florida penal system, but even these instances do not justify the refusal of the courts of another state to co-operate in seeing that those who have broken the law be punished.

A typical instance of what can be expected from such a mistaken policy is found in the case of the Georgia negro, with a long prison record, whose extradition was re- fused some months ago by the gov- ernor of Michigan because of the chain gang system in this state. De- spite representations from Georgia officials that the negro in question was a dangerous and habitual crimi- nal, his return was refused on the grounds that the papers were not correctly drawn, and the negro later secured his liberty. Since then he has committed a revolting crime in the state which protected him and he now faces a far more severe sentence than the one he was serv- ing in Georgia.

Despite the tales of torture in southern prison camps, it has been clearly established time and again that a prisoner who conducts him- self in an orderly manner is not

Chicago Judges Moved To Tears By Evil In South

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—(P)—Encouraged by a municipal judge and backed by a sympathetic novelist, James A. LaRue, who held new hope, might that he could defeat Florida justice and remain a fugitive from a Dade County chain gang winter in order to take advantage "I wish I were as sure of long life as you are of freedom," Judge Alfred O. Erickson told the 27-year-old prisoner as he forbade his removal from the Florida penitentiary, State for 24 hours. Later in the day Chief Justice Philip J. Finnegan in Crim- inal Court granted a habeas corpus writ holding LaRue in the state's custody until a full hearing Dec. 14.

At the hearing Judge Finnegan must decide whether LaRue goes back to the chain gang to finish a five-year term for housebreaking. He had been sentenced last December, and escaped in April.

Deputy Sheriff James Lewis Robinson of Florida, arrived with an extradition writ signed by Gov. Henry Horner, of Illinois, but Judge Erickson warned against any effort to remove LaRue before 24 hours in which the defense might obtain a habeas corpus writ. The court criticized the Governor's approval of his extradition.

"Gov. Horner must not have gone into this case thoroughly," said Judge Erickson, "or I don't believe he would grant extradition. There is not sufficient grounds for extradition." The judge said he would personally plead before a group of women for a defense fund to "fight the cruel imprisonment and to feed your wife and small child." LaRue's wife and one-month-old son are living here.

The young fugitive enlisted the sympathy of Rosita Forbes, British novelist, with a tale of cruel punishment in the "sweat box" on the Florida prison farm at Raiford. He said he was left in the solitary box to blister for hours under the Southern sun and then to be chilled at night. The novelist provided him with an attorney.

LaRue's story of confinement in soli- tary was partly corroborated by Florida prison records which showed he was disciplined for bad conduct, but the State Prison Bureau at Tallahassee denied that he was mistreated. The Bureau said he was placed in the "sweat box" for 100 hours last January, although it was not indicated whether the confinement was intermittent or for 100 consecutive hours. Another 80 hours in solitary were meted out in March.

Georgia May Qualify

Governor Sholtz of Florida grew irate when an Illinois judge tried Saturday to imitate the governor of New Jersey by refusing to permit the extradition of an escaped convict. The judge sought to hold the convict because the fellow said he didn't like the chain gang life in Florida. Governor Sholtz wired that he had prisoners from several other states, and he would send them all home if they were wanted at home. He said he would swap four for one if any other states had any Florida boys. The assumption is that the Florida boys would not be so unwilling to stay im- prisoned in Florida.

The New Jersey governor who refused to extradite a white man named Burns because he did not like Georgia chain gangs set a bad example. Burns advertised the Jersey gov- ernor so well others who like publicity were tempted to resort to the same tactics. Such was the case with the Illinois judge. The prisoner is wanted in Florida for robbery. The Florida governor is not surprised there- fore, that he prefers life in Illinois.

Good may come of these protests against prison life in the South. Perhaps the prisons in other sections are much more ideal. But some wonderful strides have been made since the days of old Fleet house in London, where debtors were turned in to starve if they could not pay what they owed to relentless creditors. The peonage system in Mexico is nothing in comparison. Effort may not have been made in the past to bring prison life up to an ideal, but progress is being made. One of the finest buildings in the state is to be a prison. The contract has just been let for its construction in Tattnall county. Detailed descriptions have recently been printed in The Telegraph. It is to take state prisoners out of the county chain gangs and is to be a center for industrial education, social uplift and religious training of prisoners. In all seriousness, it will afford an ideal plan for reclaiming every prisoner who is capable of reformation. Probably the convicts who are acquainted with life in the prisons of New Jersey and Illinois will prefer Georgia when the extradition proceedings are instituted in the years ahead.

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

SEP 19 1923
VIGILANTES

LIKE a page out of the history of the Old West comes the formation of the vigilantes in the northwest section of Miami to patrol the roads in efforts to pre-

vent prowling by negro and white of the patrol system by the police vagrants. The organization is thein the city and by the sheriff's outgrowth of a series of housedeputies in the county. With the burglaries, climaxed by the mur- additions to the police force and der of Mrs. Stella Pickett.

These vigilantes, very wisely, are to be restricted to responsible adult citizens and are cautioned against causing racial friction. They will co-operate with the city police and county sheriff's office in the movement to end the complete activities the vigilantes may be relieved, while continuing as an emergency army should the question suspicious characters. need arise.

L. C. Richmond, temporary sec- retary, shows full appreciation of the difficulties involved and the need of care in selecting the men for patrol duties. He declared the body is to be nonpolitical and the disgruntled will not be permitted to turn it into a debating society. The effectiveness of the vigilantes would be lessened if certain individuals sought to make use of them as an agency to promote their own political or other inter- ests. They should stand for sound government and adequate protection of homes and lives, but that does not call for partisan- ship in getting persons into or out of offices unless convincing proof is submitted of failure in the per- formance of duty.

Care must also be exercised in the task of patrolling. The vigi- lantes themselves should remain on the roads, unless, of course, it is necessary to pursue a doubtful person, for there would be serious danger in permitting non-uni- formed citizens to become prow- lers themselves in the name of the law. Such activities would ease the way for criminals and might also result in stirring fear among residents, who are apt to fire upon persons seen in their yards. Neither should vigilantes be troubled with nervous trigger fingers, shooting first and then investigating.

Negroes are well warned to stay out of the white districts at night unless they have legitimate work which calls them. Negroes should be disarmed and the sale of guns to them prohibited. For that mat- ter revolvers should not be sold to any person except through police license, registration and finger printed.

The formation of the vigilantes should expedite the resumption

Crime - 1933

FLORIDA CHAIN GANG

Tortures Described by Armando Lopez, Militant Worker

TAMPA, Fla. — What a Florida chain gang in its mildest form is like was described here by Armando Lopez, militant worker who was recently sentenced to 26 days and released on a \$100 bond pending appeal after serving five days. Lopez was arrested on the same charge as Homer Barton, organizer of the unemployed — "being a Communist and found in Tampa."

The International Labor Defense is appealing both these cases which are under an anti-union "buck-shot" ordinance. Hearing on the appeal of Lopez will probably be around the latter part of February. Barton, released on a writ of habeas corpus pending the appeal, was immediately rearrested by county and immigration authorities.

"I was taken to the city stockade," Lopez said, describing his experience. "There my clothes were taken from me, and I was given overalls with prison stamps all over them. I was taken to the crematory, where they burn all the garbage and dead animals from the city."

Locked Chains On Legs

"They put me with a crew of five Negro prisoners, because they thought that would be an insult. Of course, it wasn't, since what we are fighting for down here, and this is what is considered our greatest 'crime,' is for the unity of Negro and white workers in the struggle against starvation and terror, and for the national liberation of the Negro people. They locked chains on my legs, which did not come off at any time during the five days I was held."

"On the dump, the ashes were thick and black, and filled our nostrils. Every time we spit, it was like spitting black mud."

Threatened With Shot-Gun

"A guard stood over us with a sawed-off shot-gun. Every time we stopped to wipe the sweat and ashes off our faces, he yelled at us. 'I won't stand for any of that,' he said. 'You're supposed to work like mules, and I'm here to see you do it.' He threatened us with his gun. Our hands were broken and bloody from the heat and dirt getting into the cracks and blisters."

"What they gave us for food I can't describe. I don't know what it was, but I do know a pig would refuse it."

"The detective who testified against

me was Andres L. Lopez, who is called 'Pigeon' by everyone in Tampa, because he is such a notorious stool. The only true things he said in court was that I spread literature and made collections for the defense of the Tampa prisoners. In everything else, he lied. He said he knew me for eight years, which he did not, and that I never had worked a day — another lie, of course."

"We have to fight hard, and get help in this fight from all over the country, to smash this new law, or else we will have every militant worker in jail here."

GUISEPPE ZANGARA

At the Jackson Memorial hospital in Miami, Fla., Mayor Anton J. Cermak of Chicago lies critically injured, a bullet lodged near his spine. He was shot Wednesday night by one Guiseppe (Joe) Zangara, a native of Italy—a man who, though in America is classed as white and given every opportunity and encouragement to enjoy all the privileges this country has to offer, cannot speak the English language without the aid of an interpreter.

Mr. Cermak was shot by a man who, though born in a country where there are no presidents, hated presidents, and came to this country with the avowed intention of killing a president. He was shot by a man who, though bent upon killing President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, was not averse to shooting a mayor, a couple of private citizens, a couple of women, or just anyone who happened to get in the way of his bullets. From the bullets fired by Guiseppe Zangara Mayor Cermak fell wounded—and so did four others. That Mr. Roosevelt escaped with his life is a miracle.

And all this havoc wrought by an Italian—a white man—in America. Zangara, although speaking little or no English, could live where he chose to live in Miami. He could buy a pistol in Miami and not be questioned about it. He could walk the streets of Miami with his pistol bulging from his pocket, elbow his way into a huge crowd of white people, take his pistol out of his pocket and fire five shots at the president-elect—all because he is white. And because of this Mayor Cermak may die an untimely death.

There were no black Americans in Bay Front park Wednesday night when Mayor Cermak was shot unless they were there as servants—this is one of the public places in Miami reserved for whites only. (And remem-

ber, "whites only" includes Italians, Germans, Hindus, Japanese, Chinese—anything except a black American.) Although Miami is an American city, and Roosevelt was elected to be president of all Americans, it just happened that he was visiting in a city and state where thousands of Americans are disfranchised and discriminated against.

Had a black man desired to shoot a president (which is most unlikely) he would have found it difficult to get close enough to try it. He would probably have been arrested had he attempted to stand on the same bench from which Guiseppe Zangara did his shooting. Had he grappled with Guiseppe Zangara before the shooting, shouting at the top of his voice that the Italian was armed, he probably would have been arrested for daring to lay his hand on a white man.

That is the American system. Black Americans have ever been loyal to their country and to its institutions—but black Americans have remained the football of America. The very train which was to carry Mr. Roosevelt north from Miami had a Jim Crow coach on which black Americans are compelled by law to ride. But Guiseppe Zangara could ride in the chair car or the Pullman car. The train which brought Mr. Cermak to Miami had its Jim Crow coach—but not for Zangara, the foreigner. It was for American citizens—black citizens.

All of these things, say some people, have nothing to do with the fact that Mayor Cermak was shot by a would-be assassin and that he now lies at the point of death. And to which we demur. We think it very significant and very pertinent that a foreigner—a stranger within our gates—should have privileges which we are denied, and that he should use them as he does!

We are not an unpatriotic race—our every attitude in national affairs has proved that. We have no sympathy with anarchism and we have no desire to aid and abet the move to overthrow organized government. We are not even radicals in the modern sense of the term. But we must fight American injustices. We must fight American hypocrisies. We must fight abuses. And finally we strive and plead for a change in the attitudes of studied indifference on the part of official America to our cries for the rights which are freely accorded to all but us in the land which we have helped to make!

THE MURDEROUS ASSAULT.

Joseph Zangara, would-be-assassin of President-elect Roosevelt, was discharged from the Italian Army in 1923. In September of that year he came to the United States and went to live in Paterson, N. J., with an uncle. Shortly after his arrival in this country he became a member of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union 2, and was earning from \$1.

to \$14 a day. The little Italian immigrant soon accumulated a bank account bought an automobile and enjoyed comforts and advantages of life of which he had never dreamed. And yet he gives as a reason for his dastardly act at Miami, Fla., that he hates the rich and powerful.

How appreciative and thankful would be the average colored American if the door of opportunity were open wide to him making it possible to earn from \$12 to \$14 daily? And yet it is possible for foreign-born, with no sense of loyalty or respect for our laws to come to America, prosper and resort to anarchy in the hope of overturning our government.

There are thousands and thousands of law-abiding, patriotic native and foreign-born Italian citizens who keenly feel the attempt on the life of Mr. Roosevelt and deplore the shooting as any other racial group in the United States. The trite but oft-repeated saying which the Negro finds it necessary to recall to mind, that "there are good and bad in all races," is particularly applicable and pertinent in this instance.

When the news was first flashed to the world that someone had tried to assassinate President-elect Roosevelt, it is absolutely certain that no one entertained the remotest suspicion that the guilty party was a Negro. Despite persecution, rank discrimination and many inequalities to which the race is subjected in this country, the Negro remains loyal, dependable, law-abiding and does not resort to violence. Even throughout the economic depression when others are sounding the note of pessimism and singing hymns of hate, although the man lowest down, the Negro exhibits rare fortitude, philosophically faces the trying situation as best he can and looks forward to a brighter day.

The fates were with Franklin D. Roosevelt at Miami. May they continue to protect and guide him aright when he assumes the Presidency. Not only America, but the whole world is looking to

him to assume leadership, and by his policies and acts exert a most potent influence in fostering more amicable international relations and the return of better times at home and abroad.

JAILED FLORIDA WORKERS PUT TO LABOR IN SUGAR SWAMPS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., March 23.—Florida convicts will be taken off the roads and put to work at growing sugar cane which will be sold to sugar manufacturing interests, according to the latest plan of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, announced. The pretext for this transfer is that road work which the Negro and white convicts have been doing will be made available to "free" labor.

The Everglades to which the State Board proposes to send the convicts are notorious inland malarial swamps infested with wild animal life. The convicts will be expected to reclaim this area of 2,000 acres and plant, harvest and handle the crop of sugar cane which will be used for the manufacture of sugar and cane syrup. This plan is clearly a method of isolating the convicts to conceal the tortures and brutalities imposed upon them, at the same time their forced labor will provide cheap raw material for the bosses' profits, and keep other workers out of a job.

Three Negroes Are Sent to Hospitals

Three negroes are in the Duval County Hospital as a result of shootings and a stabbing early this morning.

Albert Hamilton, 1414 Cleveland Street, has a bullet wound through his chest and is in a serious condition. Police arrested Ida Williams, negro woman, of 530 Everson Street, where the shooting occurred, on a charge of suspicion of assault to murder. She told police that Hamilton advanced on her with an ice pick and she shot him, the police state. The shooting occurred about 1:30 A. M.

Ruff Adams, 115 Finklestein Lane, was stabbed in the back between the shoulders during an argument shortly after 1 A. M. with his wife, Maria, police stated. Police placed the woman under arrest on a charge of suspicion of assault to murder. Adams was stabbed with an ice pick.

Benjamin McCoy, 554 Center Street told police another negro shot him while he stood on the sidewalk in the Seaboard Quarters. The bullet pierced his shoulder and his condition is not considered serious. His assailant had not been arrested early this morning.

The case were investigated by Detectives S. J. Burkhalter and R. B. Menotte, Sergt. Padgett and Patrolmen A. N. Jones and J. S. Pickett.

Four Executions

Stayed by Court

Counsel For Negroes Claims They Were Tortured

TALLAHASSEE, Aug. 7 (P)—A Negro lawyer's plea that four Negroes, scheduled to die today in the electric chair, had been tortured into confessions of murder, halted the executions shortly before the death marches were to begin at Raiford state prison. The supreme court granted a last minute writ of error on the plea of D. W. Perkins, Jacksonville attorney, who claimed the Negroes had been brutally mistreated by Broward county officers and others and forced to confess they robbed and killed Robert Darsey, Pompano fish dealer.

The writ is returnable Oct. 27 and was certified to the Broward county circuit court. The Negroes are Izell Chambers, Jack Williamson, Charlie Davis and Walter Woodward. They had been scheduled to die in Florida's first quadruple execution.

Perkins pleaded the Negroes did not have a fair trial. "They were rushed to trial," he told the court, "without being permitted to have or secure an attorney of their own choice."

While in jail, the attorney continued, "they were hanged up by ropes, pistols were drawn upon them and they were tortured for seven consecutive nights almost without let-up and persons not peace officers were allowed to handle the prisoners in jail in any way they saw fit."

"They are each and all innocent of the crime."

St Petersburg Fla Independent

Negro Must Leave County Following 10 Days In Jail

Clearwater, July 22.—Jesse Moore, negro from Americus, Ga., was given a sentence of 10 days in jail and instructed to leave the state when he appeared before Justice F. I. Gates on a charge of

trespass yesterday.

Deputy Drayton McMullen entered the Yelvington grove, southeast of Largo, yesterday morning. As he walked around the house a negro ran from the back porch. The deputy gave chase and took the intruder into custody. The Georgia negro was found to have his shirt full of citrus fruit and McMullen's theory is that the darkey was about to break into the Yelvington home, but had not had time to force an entrance before being discovered.

CHARGE'S DENIED

No Letters of Mistreatment of Negroes

(By The Associated Press)

The governor's office has reported there was no recollection of receipt of letters from white prisoners in the Broward county jail protesting against alleged brutal treatment of four negroes in the Robert Darsey murder case.

A stay of execution for the four negroes was obtained on the plea of W. L. Perkins, Jacksonville negro attorney, after he charged before the supreme court the condemned men were brutally treated in the Broward jail and their confessions were obtained under duress. Broward authorities have emphatically denied such charges.

MIAMI, FLA. NEWS

JUL 9 1933

Latest of our Florida prison colonies to show a prima donna complex seems to be the Sarasota county stockade. First the convicts refused to eat their spinach, cold greens, or something, and went off in a corner to pout. Then they objected to doing their chores and finally told the superintendent they didn't think it at all nice that a boy from Manatee county was allowed to stay in the yard while they had to go out on the road. Apparently five of them, including three negroes, hoped to be so bad they'd be sent to Raiford, and the county tried to send them there, according to the Sarasota Herald. The state balked, insisting it was having enough trouble without borrowing any, so the five bad boys gave up, admitted they were wrong and agreed to let the superintendent tell them what to do.

Jacksonville Fla Journal

Aug. 15, 1933 Condemned Negroes Are Held by State

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Aug. 15.—(P)—Governor Sholtz has advised the sheriff of Broward county that four negroes, condemned to die for the slaying of Robert M. Darsey, would not be returned to that county unless a court order specifically directs it.

The negroes' execution was halted last week when the supreme court granted a writ of error and awarded them a hearing here October 27. They claimed they were forced to confess the slaying under duress, and that they would not be safe if returned to Broward county.

STAR
Orlando, Fla

AUG 10 1933 War on Crime

Washington news dispatches continue to emphasize the government's intention of making vigorous war on crime. Prof. Moley, assistant to Sec'y Hull, has been placed at the disposal of the legal department in the hope that he may unify agencies for a drive on kidnaping and all forms of racketeering.

Securing promises from manufacturers of machine guns to sell only to the federal government or to sub-divisions of the government is starting at the source of the evil. Racketeering has been well fortified and well equipped with machine guns. Basement of a Chicago hotel patronized principally by kings of the underworld, was found to be a veritable arsenal.

Every state has laws against "gun toting" or carrying concealed weapons; but they are poorly enforced. It would be interesting to know what per centage of the gun toting in Florida is by permission of law; it would be equally interesting to know how much pains an officer takes to ascertain whether or not applicant for a license to carry a gun is a proper person to be entrusted with a deadly weapon.

A concrete case is brought to the

attention of the people of this community through the death of Officer Moore of the Orlando police force. Did the negro who shot him have a permit to carry a gun? If so, was he a proper person to be granted a permit? So many negroes are possessed of guns that one wonders whether or not the law against pistol toting means anything or whether it is a dead letter.

In the light of this incident, it might be well for Orange county authorities to follow the example of the federal government and check up on the gun toters to see how many of them have permits. Evidently disarmament should begin with individuals. Unless something is done to check the indiscriminate selling of arms to irresponsible parties, men who do police duty will continue to be subjected to criminal assaults.

Police officers of the type of Moore who do not shrink from duty, no matter how hazardous, are entitled to all the protection that laws intended for their protection can give them. Possibly there is no law against selling a pistol to any man who has the money to pay for one; but there should be. At least a moral obligation rests upon society to extend every possible protection to the men who assume the dangerous role of officially protecting it against the intrusions of the lawless.

Crime-1933.

General

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

LEADER

NOV 29 1933

UNRULY AMERICA

Our country has more crimes of violence than other countries.

When a war comes along, Americans do not quit killing after the armistice.

They quit killing the enemy but they proceed to kill each other.

This aftermath of killing is not done solely by ex-soldiers, although plenty of them take part in it, but also by others whom the war has accustomed to the idea of slaughter or other violence. War seems to go to Americans' heads so that they can't stop.

Perhaps there is some, shall we say, inherent reason for this condition.

Perhaps it grows out of the fact that this was, until a few decades ago, a new country—new not so much in age as in nature.

This country began with a rather lawless border along the Atlantic coast. That lawless border was pushed slowly across to the Pacific coast. It was a fight with the Indians all the way. Among the whites, a sort of primitive "justice" was meted out to wrongdoers and alleged wrongdoers by vigilance committees—another name for mobs. Lynch "law" was the order of the day. Men were strung up for purported offenses, and tried afterwards. The lawless spirit prevailed. It worked itself from the parents into the hearts of the children. School teachers, in charge of these children in pioneer school houses, found that they had to literally fight for supremacy. If they could not lick the pupils they were licked by the pupils and run out of their jobs.

When the World war came on, there was no other country in which there was so much vile mobocracy and brutal injustice as there was in ours.

The authorities made but little pretense of enforcing law and order, but rather winked at or encouraged lawlessness. Some very influential men went so far as to openly encourage lynching. Neither the lives nor the liberties of anyone who told the truth about the war, or who hesitated to buy Liberty bonds until it hurt, were safe. There was more or less intolerance in the other belligerent countries, but no such orgy of lawlessness as there was in this country.

This lawlessness somewhat changed its form but has continued. Murders, bank robberies, stick-ups, kidnappings are in the news, one or other of them, every day, with a sprinkling of hanging bees such as those in Maryland and California. While the world is better off without the California kidnappers, it would be still better off without the lynchers. That goes for the Maryland lynchers, too, but the Maryland victim may have been innocent. Lynchers set an even worse example to the young than other criminals do, for the reason that other criminals are known to be doing wrong, whereas the acts of lynchers are often condoned by parents and even by authorities.

Gov. Rolph approves of the California lawlessness. And he leaves Tom Mooney in prison! Could anyone more thoroughly disqualify himself for public office? Alleged followers of Jesus, who was himself sentenced to death to please a mob, have congratulated the governor on his stand. They cannot be too severely condemned. A mob in Missouri has already followed their suggestions.

Our country leads in crime. Let there be no more wars. And let there be no more capitalism—for the social system breeds war, and it also breeds all the other conditions that entice or drive men into crime.

Morristown, Tenn., Gazette

December 28, 1933

BAR ASSOCIATION'S STAND AGAINST CRIME

The American Bar Association

undertaking a comprehensive survey of the problems of law enforcement

presumably incited to action by the lynchings and other lawlessness that

have occurred in several states recently.

It is a subject for unhappy comment that the votaries of our legal system wait for lawless mobs to

shock their sensibilities into action. But "twice ever thus."

It appears to be the way of progress that we lock the stable door after the horse

has been stolen.

Lawlessness has been rampant in the large metropolitan centers for

several years. Gangsters, racketeers, kidnapers, and murderers have

terrorized these communities. The local legal machinery has

proved impotent to bring them to justice. Many local law-enforcement agents

have become so inert, feeble and callous to crime in their midst that

movement is growing in favor of invoking federal proceedings.

Some go so far as to declare that the states should be deprived of their

police power by constitutional amendment. Others believe that

lynchers can be brought to justice when the state enforcement breaks

down. They cite the Congressional Act of 1870, which makes it a

misdemeanor for an officer of the law in any state to permit a citizen to be

deprived of the right to person or property.

The American Bar Association is directing its movement not only

against lynchings and other lawlessness, but is attacking abuses in the

administration of the law. After completing its survey the association

will set forth clearly a program whereby desired changes may be

effected.

Such questions as the following will be studied: the relation between

politics and crime; activities of lawyers who are employed by the under-

world; racketeers and their extortions from business concerns; court methods in disposing of criminal cases; zeal and efficiency of prosecuting officers; crime in relation to its detection and prevention by police officers, etc.

This movement deserves the cooperation of every lawyer in the country in arriving at the facts.

There is plenty of opportunity for public spirited citizens to play their

part, not only in developing a workable program, but in executing it

after it is set up. Our juries can be greatly strengthened if intelligent,

high standing citizens will evince a greater interest in serving on

them.

In England lynching is scarcely necessary to deter the acts of the criminal by

fear of mob violence. The criminal

timid in England fear the quick trial and summary punishment in the

courts under a criminal code that protects the people in their homes

and daily walks of life. If our states should evolve a criminal procedure quite as efficient, then there

will be no excuse for the people to resort to a violation of the law in order to punish wrongdoers.

MARSHALLTOWN, IO.

TIMES REPUBLICAN

DEC 29 1933

BUT IT COSTS YOU \$100 A YEAR.

A special writer estimates that crime in this country costs each family \$100 a year. Which if a fair estimate, as it probably is, based on the statistics of the costs of crime should cause a wrinkle on the thoughtful brows of those who pay the cost.

Some Iowa newspapers note a growing demand for abolition of the parole board. Based of course on the 30 per cent of paroled men who, it is stated, return to ways of crime.

The discussion over the righteousness and unrighteousness of the San Jose lynching still continues.

Mostly talk. Mostly discussion among us without any definite plan of our own and worse yet with a sub current of individual indifference so long as crime doesn't actually knock on our own doors.

But it does when it costs \$100 a family.

So far as the parole board and parole boards are concerned they are intended to serve a good and wise purpose. They are like the adage which asserts that figures can't lie but that those who make figures can. Parole boards are as effective as the personnel of the board, the influences that surround them and the powers granted them.

Hitler appears to have found an entering wedge. He holds all who may be esteemed public enemies against parole or discharge. Simply keeps them where the dogs can not bite them and where they can not bite society. And, it might be noted suggestively that "public enemies" under the Hitler definition are slated for sterilization.

The attorney general of the U. S. suggests a general finger printing. The autoist on his license or registration card would carry his own fingerprints. And finger prints would identify us all, good, bad or indifferent.

We have within the past few months seen and observed the readiness with which criminals of the desperate class find each other promptly in criminal emergency. Criminals that the law had sought for in three years for murder, robbery, kidnaping, prison breaks and other desperate crimes managed within hours to organize a rescue party for Nash. It is of recent recollection how that rescue band shot down his captors in a crowded railway depot, fortunately including the prisoner. The underground and criminal organization had the local, state and even the U. S. S. S. beat in organization and information.

Those affairs under flaming headlines arouse but the roots of the criminal organization and their recruits spring from individual indifference to minor crime and minor criminals and law defiers whence the hoch command of criminal operations grow. Let's be as honest with ourselves as we can and confess that indifference, perhaps cowardliness, that refuses to stand up and be counted as demanding enforcement of the laws and dismiss that simple method of

signing any petition that may be presented so long as the offender had "done nothing to us."

There is an appeal in the statement that it costs each family \$100 a year, a strong appeal if the tax collector came around for the money and it were paid as taxes.

It isn't one thing, not a parole board, or a single court or a purchased policeman or politician. It's a public indifference that arouses itself only when the major crimes come home to communities. In short it is "us". We who esteem ourselves "sovereign voters" and refuse or neglect to vote, who like the little Sunday school boy conclude "Nero never done nothin' to me" and so wait our turn.

HOUSTON, TEX.

POST

SEP 14 1933

Murder in the South

CHICAGO is rather generally regarded as the crime capital of the universe, with New York challenging the Windy City for that distinction, but the fact is that, size of populations considered, there is far less crime in those cities than in many of our Southern cities.

Life is many times safer in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Detroit and the other cities so widely advertised as the haunts of gangsters than it is in the average Southern city.

In murders per capita, Jacksonville, Fla., stood first in 1932, according to a murder survey made by Frederick Rex, librarian of the city of Chicago. In the little Florida city last year 61 murders were committed. The murder rate there, then, was 43.88 for each 100,000 of the population. Atlanta, Ga., placed second, with a rate of 43.10 for each 100,000 of the population; Memphis, Tenn., which formerly carried off the murder honors each year, fell down to third place in 1932, with only 39.92 slayings to the 100,000 of population. Is Memphis going soft? What has happened to her killers, that they should in Jacksonville and Atlanta outdistance their city in the making of murder records?

Other cities close up front were Birmingham, Ala., which captured fourth place; Tampa, Fla., fifth; Dallas, sixth; Camden, N. J., seventh; Washington, eighth; Kansas City, ninth, and New Orleans, tenth, with a rate of 12.65 to the 100,000 of population. Then it is a long drop to Chicago, which ranked twenty-sixth, with a rate of only 9.31, while New York trailed along in thirty-fourth place, with a rate of 6.62.

The fact that Southern cities have a large negro population and that many of the killings in those cities are committed by negroes does not wholly account for the excessively high murder rates in Jacksonville, Memphis and other populous centers of the South. Whites kill almost as freely in the South as do negroes.

The South's unsavory murder record will not be changed until the popular attitude toward killing is altered. A large proportion of the slayings in the

South are popularly regarded as justifiable. Many killings are justified under the "unwritten law." An allegation that the victim perpetrated "a hip pocket movement" is ordinarily a good enough defense, even though the dead man had proved to be unarmed. The idea, rather prevalent in the South, that private justice should be condoned, encourages killing. The result of all this is that a man accused of stealing a pig is much more apt to pay a penalty for his crime than is the man who kills. The South recoils from the gangster killings in the North, but gives scarcely a passing thought to the homicide record made each year in its own midst. One reason for this is that so many of the killings in the South are not popularly regarded as crimes.

SANFORD, FLA.

HERALD

SEP 15 1933

The South's Murder Rate

What is the most lawless city in the United States? Your answer might well be Chicago, New York, or St. Louis, depending on which city produced the latest headlines for another one way ride. But the correct answer would be Jacksonville—Jacksonville, Florida—at least. Jacksonville experienced more killings last year in proportion to its population than any other city in the United States.

Florida also produced another contender for national killing honors. Tampa is listed as the fifth city in the United States having the highest murder ratio. The South as a whole also shone bright. The whole first six cities were in the South. Camden, N. J. ranked seventh with less than half as many killings per hundred thousand as Jacksonville. Chicago, of which we read so much, was thirteenth on the list.

According to the Commercial Appeal of Memphis, always high in any list of city killings, the rate is particularly high in the South on account of the large number of Negroes. Analyzing its own situation, the Commercial Appeal explains that out of 105 murders in Memphis last year, eighty-eight were negroes, and only 17 whites. "Four white men were killed by white men, and thirty-nine negro men were killed by negro men. Two white men were killed by white women, and thirteen negro men were killed by negro women. Two white women were killed by white men, and eighteen negro women were killed by negro men", it is explained.

But the fact that negroes are responsible for the majority of killings in the South does not relieve these cities of the stigma of high murder rates. "They should exert every influence to make more law-abiding citizens of the negroes of their community", says the Commercial Appeal. "The record should also challenge the leaders of the negro race. After all, they are the ones to whom the rank and file of negroes look for leadership."

Leniency toward negroes charged with killing members of their own race is a contributing factor in the South's high murder rate. According to the chief of police in Atlanta, "one reason for the high percentage of killing among

negroes is that few of them are electrocuted for slaying members of their own race. We bring them before the courts charged with murder, and the verdict is usually manslaughter. This does not serve as a sufficient deterrent. Negroes who, under the most favorable circumstances, do not view their living conditions as any bed of roses, are not likely to regard the prospect of prison farms or highway work, as a very powerful restraining influence when their

NEWS

Laurel S.C.

AUG 29 1933

THE HIGH MURDER RATE

Jacksonville led the nation in homicides in proportion to population according to figures recently released. According to these figures the rate in Jacksonville was 43.88 per 100,000 of population. All the southern cities have a high murder rate, largely because of the fact that they all have large negro populations. This fact is responsible for the extremely high rate of homicides but the fact remains that the rate would still be high if the negro population were left out of the picture. In New York an average of one murder per day is recorded and the sun seldom sets in that city without the police receiving word of a death of this nature. However, the rate is more than six times this high in Jacksonville. Even in Chicago the murder rate is but 9.31 per 100,000.

Throughout the United States the murder rate is appallingly high but there seems to be little that can be done about it.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

AUG 24 1933

A DANGEROUS FOLLY

The chief ice of the City of Atlanta gives sound basis of the causes of the high murder in Southern cities. It is due not only to the large Negro element in Southern population but also to the fact that Southern white men have minimized the importance of murder among Negroes.

"One reason for the high percentage of killings among Negroes is that few of them are electrocuted for slaying members of their own race," declared Chief Sturdivant, of Atlanta. "We bring them before the courts charged with murder and the verdict usually is manslaughter. This does not serve as sufficient deterrent."

It is hard to conceive of a greater folly. White Southerners on the bench, at the solicitor's table and in the jury box who minimize the crime of murder among Negroes serve not only to decrease the safety of the great majority of law-abiding Negroes but also to destroy the fear of the law in criminal killers to the danger of the entire white and black South.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

AUG 25 1933

The Most Murderous.

Jacksonville, with 61 murders last year, wins from Atlanta by a hair's breadth the dubious distinction of being the most murderous city in the United States, in the class of municipalities having more than 100,000 inhabitants. Or that is the situation according to a survey by Frederick Rex, librarian for the city of Chicago.

Mr. Rex is from Chicago it is true, but his crime statistics are generally accepted as authentic, regardless of his place of residence.

The year before last Birmingham walked away with the blue ribbon, with Atlanta pushing her a close second. Jacksonville's ratio per 100,000 population was 43.99, while Atlanta's was 43.10. Memphis with 105 murders ran a close third with a 39.92 ratio.

Unbelievable as it may sound here in the south where when we think of gangsters and killings we are prone to think of the pig cities

in the west and north. Chicago, with 328 killings and a ratio of 9.31, is in 13th place from the sanguinary zenith. In New York there were 478 murders, a ratio of only 6.62 per 100,000 inhabitants. New Orleans, with 60 murders scored a ratio of 12.65. Thus, the Crescent City is well up toward the top in crime among the larger cities of the south.

Mr. Rex included 95 cities in his survey. Among the cities scoring a bloodless record for last year are Fall River, Lowell and Bedford—New England cotton mill centers—Grand Rapids, Mich., Reading, Pa. South Bend, Ind., and Utica, N. Y.

Population considered, the murder rate in North Carolina is far and away higher than that of Chicago or New York, as the Record has several times pointed out.

Now that the south's disgraceful record of blood is again being publicized, numerous southern commentators are dragging out the same old flabby alibi; namely, that the dense negro population of the south is responsible for this section's high rate of criminality.

The negro is, no doubt, responsible to a great degree. But what being the most murderous city in the United States, in the class of the body politic. The negro race forms a large segment of our population. He is a part of the south. There is no use trying to pass the buck to our black brother. The white man, administers the law in the south. If it is true, and it seems to be, that the negro is to blame for the greater number of crimes in the south, it is a reflection on his race, to be sure, but it is also a reflection on the white man and the white man's government that he and it apparently can do so little to curb crime among the blacks and the whites as well.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

AUG 23 1933

THE MURDER COUNTRY

The South still continues the murder country. Neither the gangs of Chicago nor of New York have been able with all their modern methods of killing to approximate the murder rate which prevails in the South. Of ninety-five American cities having a population of 100,000 or more, twelve of the thirteen with the highest murder rates in 1932 were located in the South.

The obvious explanation is that the South has so large an element of Negroes in its population. That is true but the enforcement of the laws in the South is wholly in the hands of the white people. The truth seems to be that there is too little regard in the courts of the South for human life if that life be black.

The murder of one Negro by another is not regarded with great indignation in the South.

The result is that criminal Negroes have too large a degree lost their fear of the law so far as killing within their own race is concerned. Such a situation reduces the safety of the great majority of law abiding Negroes in the South. Not so directly, but inevitably, it reduces, too, the safety of every Southerner, white as well as black, from criminals and killers.

If the State does not punish vigorously every murderer, whether his victim was white or black, then every other citizen is endangered by the escape of that killer. Murder is murder and human life is human life and until the South learns that public safety in the South will not only be at a lower level than elsewhere in the country but the South will remain in the eyes of the world "a shotgun civilization" as one of its fiercest critics once described it.

AMERICA'S HOMICIDE PROBLEM.

Organizations and drives exist for the solution of numerous problems, but if there is any organized effort to solve America's homicide problem it is not letting its left hand know what its right hand is doing. And yet, the country's homicide record clearly indicates that prevention of the loss of human life through violence constitutes one of its most serious social problems.

In its current "Statistical Bulletin," the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company points out that during the years 1929 to 1931 the average annual homicide rate among white people for the country as a whole was 5.5 per 100,000. Among Negroes the rate for the country as a whole was 38.4 per 100,000 of the colored population.

One of the significant things about the homicide rate is that it varies so greatly for different parts of the country, with respect to both white people and Negroes. During the indicated period, for instance, Nevada's annual rate for white persons was 16.5 per 100,000, while in the matter of Negro homicides Missouri led with the amazing annual rate of 72.2 per 100,000.

In striking contrast to these rates are those of Maine and Vermont for white people, each with a rate of 1.3, and those of New Hampshire and Vermont for Negroes, among whom no homicides were recorded during the three-year period. In the Metropolitan bulletin's article States are classed in six groups, according to homicide rates. Tennessee is in next to the highest with reference to homicides among white people and in the highest group relating to the homicide rate among Negroes.

There must be some fundamental reason or reasons why the United States' homicide rate among white persons is nearly three times as high as that of Canada and from ten to eleven times as high as that of England. There must also be some fundamental reason or reasons for this country's tremendous homicide rate among Negroes.

HOMICIDE SURVEY

A nation-wide survey, covering the years 1929, 1930, and 1931, of homicides, made by one of the leading insurance companies, developed figures that will be somewhat surprising to most persons.

Nevada led all the states with a homicide rate of 16.5 per 100,000, which is three times the average rate of the white population of the country as a whole; while for colored people the State of Missouri heads the list, with a rate of 72.2 per 100,000, the average for persons of this racial group being 38.4.

Maine and Vermont, each with a rate of 1.3 per 100,000, had the lowest rate among white persons; New Hampshire and Vermont the lowest for colored.

In the Southeastern area, among white persons, particularly high rates of more than 10 per 100,000 are recorded in Florida, Kentucky, and Mississippi; between 8 and 10 per 100,000 in West Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Very high rates were found in the mountain states region, very low in the New England States.

The geographic distribution of homicides among the colored population differed very materially from that among the whites. A group of states with high homicide rates clusters about Indiana; namely, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, and Missouri, all of them with rates in excess of 60 per 100,000.

The majority of Southern States, with their relatively high proportion of Negroes, showed, contrary to the prevailing impression, low average rates of homicide among that race. It is a notable circumstance that Mississippi, the only State where the colored population exceeds the white, has a homicide rate of 35.6 per 100,000.

colored persons, which is less than the average in this group throughout the United States.

KANSAS CITY, MO. JOURNAL POST

NOV 8 1933

Where to Get Murdered.

White persons in Nevada and Negroes in Missouri kill each other with greater frequency than in any other states in the Union. The ratio in Nevada is 16.5 per hundred thousand and the Missouri rate for Negroes is 72.2 per hundred thousand. This information is supplied by the statistical bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company. Arizona and New Mexico are other states where the homicide rate is high among the white population. This, perhaps, is not surprising, for these states remain nearer to the Old West, where men settled their difficulties with guns than most parts of the country. Why the Missouri Negroes should be bloodthirstier than Negroes in other

sections is a mystery for which we have no explanation to offer.

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts have the lowest homicide rates in the country, something of a tribute to the persistence of the New England tradition of law observance in the face of immigration of various alien stocks. Negroes in the Old South apparently are far more law-abiding than they are in the border states of Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and—here's a surprise—Michigan. South Dakota and Texas supplied no data for the homicide survey, so perhaps they're worse than anybody. And perhaps not, too.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. GAZETTE

NOV 18 1933

HIGH UP IN HOMICIDE.

Arkansas makes a somewhat better showing in the state-wide homicide statistics published by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company than its chief city has made in the urban reports which Frederick L. Hoffman, insurance statistician, has been getting out annually for many years past. In the Hoffman tables, it will be recalled, Little Rock last year had a homicide rate per 100,000 of population more than four times as high as Chicago's, and the 10 cities heading the list were all in the South.

For the entire country during the years 1929 to 1931, the white homicide rate was 5.5 per 100,000. Nevada led all other states with a rate of

15.5. Three Southern states, Florida, Kentucky and Mississippi, had rates of more than 10 per 100,000. Then came Arkansas as one of a group of 12 states, all in the South or the Rocky Mountain region, with rates of more than eight but less than 10 per 100,000.

But inclusion in this group is nothing to brag of. We have a rate nearly double the national rate, which itself is three times that of Canada and more than 10 times that of England.

The whites must share with the Negroes responsibility for the high homicide rates in the South. Astonishing as it may seem, the Metropolitan figures show that the majority of Southern states have Negro homicide rates below the national average of 38.4 per 100,000, while several states north of the Ohio river have Negro rates exceeding 60 per 100,000.

Without considering the Negro population, the Metropolitan statistics on white homicides leave Arkansas high up in the national listing. More than one thing may be suggested as contributing to this bad distinction. As in other Southern states, the habit of carrying weapons is common. With weapons in instant reach or near at hand, anger or resentment over real or fancied injury may easily lead to homicide. There have been so many cases where juries have held that provocation of one kind or another justified the taking of human life that the law has been endowed with a certain tolerance. And our penal system is so leniently administered that the average "life sentence" for murder in Arkansas is actually imprisonment for not more than seven years.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. AGE HERALD

NOV 9 1933

America's Homicide Problem

Organizations and drives exist for the solution of numerous problems, but if there is any organized effort to solve America's homicide problem it is not letting its left hand know what its right hand is doing. And yet, the country's homicide record clearly indicates that prevention of the loss of human life through violence constitutes one of its most serious social problems.

In its current "Statistical Bulletin," the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company points out that during the years 1929 to 1931 the average annual homicide rate among white people for the country as a whole was 5.5 per 100,000. Among Negroes the rate for the country as a whole was 38.4 per 100,000 of the colored popu-

One of the significant things about the homicide rate is that it varies so greatly for different parts of the country, with respect to both white people and Negroes. During the indicated period, for instance, Nevada's annual rate for white persons was 16.5 per 100,000, while in the matter of Negro homicides Missouri led with the amazing annual rate of 72.2 per 100,000.

In striking contrast to these rates are those of Maine and Vermont for white people, each with a rate of 1.3, and those of New Hampshire and Vermont for Negroes, among whom no homicides were recorded during the three-year period. In the Metropolitan bulletin's article states are classed in six groups, according to homicide rates. Tennessee is in next to the highest with reference to homicides among white people and in the highest group relating to the homicide rate among Negroes.

There must be some fundamental reason or reasons why the United States' homicide rate among white persons is nearly three times as high as that of Canada and from 10 to 11 times as high as that of England. There must also be some fundamental reason or reasons for this country's tremendous homicide rate among Negroes.—Chattanooga Times.

Crime-1933

Fayetteville, N. C. Tribune
April 26, 1933

57 VARIETIES OF JUSTICE

Consider the case of William Turner, arrested and sentenced for hold-ups in Alabama. He escapes and is later arrested in Florida in 1929 for a series of robberies. He escapes the Florida State prison farm and returns to his old trade as hold-up man. He is again captured and sentenced to life imprisonment. Then Turner's mother appears on the scene and convinces the Parole Board that her son is suffering from tuberculosis in the last stage. He is granted a temporary parole.

At last his parole is made permanent when he is instantly killed trying to hold up a motorist.

Then consider the case of Daisy De Voe, former secretary of Clara Bow, who served every day of an 18 months sentence for embezzling \$825 from the movie star.

Finally think of carefree Winnie Judd who shot a friend as she slept and now can escape the gallows only by continuing to pretend that she is crazy—a pleasant occupation in which to spend one's life.

With such a variety of justice, stern to a giddy headed girl, lenient to a confirmed gunman, and freakish to a jealous slayer, can there be any wonder that the homicide rate in America is six times greater than in England and Canada?

Our States have been jealous of what shreds remain of their rights but the wide variations in punishments are distorting the American sense of what is justice. Commercial murders are committed with impunity in Northern cities which in turn raise their hands in horror at the speed with which Southern courts put away perpetrators of crimes of lust.

Southerners from time to time use the lynch rope freely but shudder at the thought of executing a woman.

Over the Nation there is the yelp for blood when the crime is fresh but tears for clemency when the culprit comes in danger of adequate punishment. Somewhere in the shuffle the search for justice goes astray.

WACO, TEX. TRIBUNE

MAY 2 1933

Homicide Statistics

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General.

Out of 94 Defendants 75 Are White Persons

REPORT FILED

Average Age of Those Tried
At Last Court Term Is 31
Years, 9 Months.

ROBBERY MAIN OFFENSE

White supremacy manifested itself to the discredit of the race during the regular March criminal term of Superior court, which was in session two weeks, beginning March 6, statistics prepared for the state attorney general by Herman C. Wilson, deputy clerk of court, disclosed Wednesday.

During the two week term, 94 defendants were called before the court for trial. And 75 were whites and only 19 negroes. The average age of the defendants was approximately 31 years and nine months, ranging from 17 to 49. Two white women and one negro woman were before the court.

16 Not Guilty Verdicts.

Straight prison and road sentences imposed on 35 defendants aggregated 46 years and 25 days, while several other defendants drew suspended sentences aggregating several years. The longest prison sentence was the five to ten-year sentence imposed on Oscar Walker, negro, for attempted criminal assault. Jim Riddle and Slim Huffman, white, drew five to eight years each for robbery with firearms, but they appealed from the judgment.

Verdicts of not guilty were returned in 16 cases tried during the term, while the state took a nol pros with leave in 10 other cases. Judgment was suspended in several other cases.

Robbery, breaking and entering and larceny were charged against 37 of the defendants before the court during the term, while prohibition infractions were charged against 24 others. Thirteen defendants were tried for assaults of one kind or another, while 16 others were charged with violation of the highway traffic laws.

37 Defendants Had No Occupation.

An interesting fact revealed by the court statistics was that 37 defendants stated that they had no occupation. Two workers on federal relief projects were before the court for possession of whisky. The remainder of the defendants included a lawyer,

13 farmers, 17 mill workers, a filling-station operator, printer, clerk, mechanics, salesmen and a merchant, those of the latter two classifications being charged only with speeding.

Judge A. M. Stack, of Monroe, presided over the March term of criminal court, and the docket was prosecuted by Solicitor H. L. Koontz, assisted by D. Newton Farnell, assistant solicitor.

"CRIME UNDER BURNT CORK"

The Tribune is in complete agreement with the Florida Sentinel in the thoughts expressed in the following editorial:

Burnt cork is a medium for white comedians as imitators of the Negro.

White comedians have made money with it and have furnished a laugh to thousands of good honest, unsuspecting Americans, white and black, for more than three quarters of a century.

While the Negro has looked on with the knowledge that burnt cork is a poor imitation of himself, lacking not only the features underneath the cork but the personal characteristics, he hasn't protested audibly against its use. Since the Negro considered it a failure as even a passing representation of himself, his greatest amusement was found in seeing others display such limited knowledge of his nature.

Long ago white folks have discovered the value of burnt cork off stage, the criminally inclined ones resorting to it in committing many of the most heinous crimes in the catalogue. They have committed murder, rape, thievery, kidnaping and other crimes. Recently, policemen have been accused of blacking their faces in carrying on a ruse to affect an arrest.

Just how many innocent Negroes have paid the penalty for what some burnt cork artist did, will never be known. Some years ago a white girl in Georgia was attacked by a supposed Negro. The man's face was black but his voice was that of her sweetheart and his hands were white. Nothing was ever done about it.

Aside from the innocent men requir-

ed to give their lives in connection with which an innocent Negro was succeeded in performing a feat in some localities.

We should put a little salt on every burnt cork episode, the Negro has been act with many another such criminal made racially to suffer pangs far greater connected. The Negro does enough of crime. The Negro's reputation is to without his needing help by burnt cork report of Negroes assaulting white women be cleared, as it was smeared, by the perpetrators. Whether he does moreen and kidnaping. Ninety-nine cases ruthlessness of his persecutors. The than his share of the crimes committed out of every hundred are not to be taken and the exposition of the black faced he pays dearly for what he does. When not all been rounded up yet. who took the girl into his car, may help the law, be he ever so innocent, he has

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Aside from the innocent men required to give their lives in connection with burnt cork episodes, the Negro has been made racially to suffer pangs far greater than a physical death incurs.

Maybe, the Negro's reputation is to without his needing help by burnt cork report of Negroes assaulting white women and kidnaping. Ninety-nine cases out of every hundred are not to be taken seriously. The burnt cork users have not all been rounded up yet.

The Negro does enough of crime whether he does more or less than his share of the crimes committed out of every hundred are not to be taken seriously. The burnt cork users have not all been rounded up yet.

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Peering Into The Future

Johnny Todd, the 18 year-old Negro paid the penalty for his crime.

A life for a life, says the Law. "This Negro was a brute in human form.

He had sense enough to prepare his ambush and had sufficient time, while waiting and smoking cigarettes, to think of what he was about to do, while waiting, tiger like, to slay his victim.

But, it appears he had no sense of reasoning.

With just a little more sense, he might have at least given some thought to the consequences of the terrible act he was about to commit.

Is the state and society responsible, to any degree, for boys like him, all black Negro to have been permitted to live in the morass of human depravity?

He was ignorant and depraved. His mother died three years ago and he was left to go his way, without any hindrance, into the lowest strata and dregs of two great cities—Atlanta and Detroit. He associated with blacks who thought nothing of human life.

When charged with the heinous crime, he was deserted by his relatives. Mother dead, and his father disavowing him, he sat in the court room, cowed.

Looking into the faces of those around him, he appeared the caged beast without any apparent thought of his predicament.

His grandfather, on the stand, assisted in weaving the web of evidence around him. The old Negro was helpless, even had he desired to show "blood was thicker than water." The old Negro's life was in jeopardy had he shown the slightest pause in telling of his grand-sons acts before and after the crime.

Pitiable, yes, but there was nothing else to do but condemn the black boy to the electric chair.

He had to pay, as all should and usually do.

But, why can't society do something for the black race among us?

Missionaries go into all parts of the earth to teach Christianity to the heathen, neglecting the worse than heathen among us.

Maybe, future crimes, like Todd's will be prevented if some effort is made to at least give the black boy a

chance.

Born in iniquity, neglected by society, Todd paid the penalty, though ignorant and debased by his elder companions during his short life.

A century or less from now there will be very few types of Todd.

Society, will have awakened to its Christian and human duty.

In saving the type of humans like Todd, we may be able to save the lives of splendid men like Willard S. Acree.

Speaking of Crime

IT WAS once a matter of record that there were more Negro than white offenders against the law in the South. Two decades ago almost 75 per cent of the criminal dockets of the courts were made up of Negro offenders. It might be interesting to note that the percentage has been gradually sinking an even ratio, relatively, as to population, and that in some instances the decline in Negro offenders has been so marked as to make the white percentage appear excessive.

Recent reports from prison authorities in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina show that there are not only more whites than Negroes confined in penal institutions, but that the ratio holds in proportion of population. The latest striking example comes from a report submitted to the attorney general of North Carolina by the clerk of the Superior Court of Guilford county. During the March term of the court there were 94 defendants, 75 of whom were white. A Greensboro newspaper facetiously remarks that this is "maintaining white supremacy."

Many students of the subject attribute the growth of crime among whites to Prohibition. The numerous ordinances and statutes to be violated, the ease with which they are violated, and the urge to commit crime which the disrespect for law breeds are said to be contributing factors. It may be interesting to note that of the 97 defendants before the Guilford County court, robbery, breaking and entering, and larceny were charged against 37. Thirteen were charged with assaults of one kind or another and 16 were tried for violation of highway traffic laws. It would appear that if Prohibition is a contributing factor

it is manifested in a wide variety of ways.

What has brought about such a sharp decline in the crime rate of Negroes? That is just a sort of social phenomenon in which those who believe in education, equality of opportunity, and social justice in a real sense may take pride and comfort.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

BANNER

APR 21 1933

CHICAGO'S BETTER RECORD

Homicide statistics for 1932 show a slight decline in the five larger cities, taken together—Chicago, Detroit, and New York a little below 1931, Los Angeles and Philadelphia slightly above.

Chicago's rate was 12.8 per 100,000 of population, as compared with 10.8 for the country. The Chicago Tribune notes with gratification that the rate in that city has fallen from 14.1 in 1931, "an encouraging reduction, especially considering our present situation."

Commenting on conditions throughout the country that newspaper continues: "The average for the nation, which contrasts so unfavorably with that of other civilized countries, is substantially raised by the very high rates in the colored population, although it is to be noted the rates are high for the whites in some cities having large colored population. Memphis, for example, has a rate of 11.8 for whites and 144.2 for Negroes, Birmingham 17.8 for whites and 39.7 for Negroes, New Orleans 11.1 for whites, 64 for colored. Atlanta 14.1 for whites and 109.8 for colored. On the other hand, Dallas has only 7.9 for whites, 52.7 for colored, Louisville 7.3 for whites and 84.7 for colored.

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"Reflections upon these statistics would cover a good part of American social and political history. But when we read that forty of every 100 criminals in 1932 were under the age of 25 we may be sure that the false sentiment which is always active for the prevention of punishment goes a long way toward explaining our crime rate. The most vicious youth can always count on its aid. Corrupt politics and the slow and uncertain process of our administration of justice complete the story."

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

NEWS

JUL 21 1933

PROTESTS NEGRO BEING BLAMED FOR WHITE MAN WHO BLACKS HIS FACE

To the Editor of The Daily News:—

In 1897 Rev Norman B. Wood wrote a book entitled, "The White Side of a Black Subject." In it he sought a vindication of the Afro-American race—though his skin is black, he made vivid his white side—by telling of his virtues. If a black man's virtues are portrayed as his white side, one would by following the same course of logic, portray a white man's immoral acts as his black side. Thus I suppose a good name for this article would be, "The Black Side of a White Subject."

Doing the last four months I have noted in local and New York papers some six or more articles telling of white men committing crime with dark colored paint on their faces, so as to give the impression that they are colored men. The entire scale has been run in this practice, from bank robbery in Texas, murder in Illinois, burglary in Missouri and Kansas, rape in Georgia and Florida, to kidnapping in Massachusetts. Our brother in white does not only commit the act that could be referred to as his black side, but he sees to it that it is done by a black man by changing his skin from white to a deep ebony complexion with the aid of camouflage. However, I am not surprised at this act on the part of the white lawbreaker; for well does he know that America is colorblind, and that the best way for him to "run with the hound and play with the hare" is not only play Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by having two personalities, but also in the white and black acts. That is white in the day and black at night, or: white when on his best behavior and black when bent on crime. I am highly surprised, however to find no editorial in the white press denouncing this most cursed practice among white men. (I have read three editorials in the Negro press on this practice.) One is forced to exclaim, where is the spirit of the abolitionist!

Sometimes we have to laugh to keep from crying. We may easily turn from the serious attitude for a moment, and say: White men used to paint their faces black to make people laugh, but now they paint their faces black to make people weep. To make people weep? Yes, (this is not a minstrel show) it makes the mother weep whose child has been kidnapped, it makes the man weep whose wife or daughter has been raped and it makes the race weep that must be persecuted for the atrocities of the white man in black. What! all of this and yet the attitude of many who are in a position to mold public sentiment seems to be indifferent? Yes, all of this and more! "The half has not yet been told." Only a God can tell of the multiplicity of bad acts recorded against

black men on earth, but recorded against white men in heaven. How many black men have been lynched, electrocuted, imprisoned and suffered other afflictions too numerous to mention, and yet know no more about the crime of which they are accused than they know about leviathan. They were in the vicinity and happened to be the first that the police could lay hands on.

Now I ask in all fairness, is it not enough for a people to suffer segregation in all of its forms, jimcrowism and economic ostracism, without adding insult to injury? Is it not enough to be the "last ones hired and the first ones fired" without having to bear the blame of the community. A leopard seeks to hide his spots. Yes it is enough. It is too much. Someone in command should say, halt! Any white man seeking to give the impression that he is a Negro that he may the better hide the crime that he intends to commit, or has committed, should be punished by a long period of imprisonment at hard labor. Already in many states a Negro can not pass as white without running in conflict with the law. Where is the logician who reasoned out that law, and where are the legislators who enacted it? Let them now turn around and give us a law that will protect an already abused race.

He who throws the boomerang must beware, lest he himself be injured. "The mills of the gods grind slowly" and the law of retribution still holds good. What a man sows he will reap. As with individuals, so with nations. EUSTACE L. BLAKE.
Springfield, July 20.

Crime - 1933

Grand Junction, Colo. COLO. SENTINEL

JUL 17 1933

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

A news story a few days ago recounting how a negro was saved from a mob in a certain southern state moves us to enumerate here certain significant bits of news recently gleaned concerning the South and the negro.

In Greenville, N. C., a white jury freed a negro accused by a white woman, accepting his alibi against her direct testimony.

In New Orleans, two detectives were convicted by a white jury for giving the "third degree" to a colored boy.

In Washington, recently, blacks and whites, found guilty of holdups, were given identical sentences.

In a West Virginia court, the judge levied judgments of \$5,000 against the county on behalf of the families of two negroes taken from jail and lynched.

In Louisiana, 7,000 white women recently joined in protest against all lynching.

Georgia and Virginia have both recently empaneled negroes on juries. In a North Carolina county two negroes accused of rape were acquitted by white juries. In Guilford county, North Carolina, a judge scored a jury for clearing a white man of the murder of a negro "wholly contrary to evidence in the case."

These incidents, never heralded as are the lynchings and other injustices, lead us to believe that the South is endeavoring to overcome her extreme race prejudice, at least in her administration of justice. The recent decision of the Alabama judge to grant the first of the Scottsboro negroes a new trial in spite of the verdict of guilty, also sustains this conclusion.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. NEWS

JUL 12 1933

The Trouble Is—

Judge Harding moved us strangely when he told a new Mecklenburg grand jury that the popular criticism of the courts as agencies which permit certain classes of citizens to violate the law systematically was a just criticism. Truth is, we suspect, the law has put so much of a burden upon the officers that quite naturally they both have grown into the habit of making distinctions. They will break up a Negro or poor white crap game because the law specifically says there must be no gaming. They would not care to invade a social stud party because they know instinctively it is

none of their business.

Oh, well; the thing's a little too complicated for our non-jurisdictional mentality. There is just one observation we feel qualified to advance, even then with some hesitation.

Maybe the trouble lies not with the cops and the courts but with the law. Maybe we've got too many laws, and should eliminate all except those which really appertain to public safety and order.

This business of codifying morality doesn't seem to get us anywhere.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
August 23, 1933

Improving

There was a time when Birmingham ranked as the most murderous city in the nation. If by chance it did slip from that unenviable eminence occasionally, it would drop to second place, with Memphis usually topping it.

But the latest compilation puts Birmingham in fourth place, with Jacksonville, Fla., Atlanta and Memphis in that order leading the procession. Our murder rate in 1932 was 30.32 for each 100,000 of population, compared with 43.88, 42.10 and 39.92 respectively.

This alteration is gratifying to Birmingham, naturally. The decline in the murder rate here, and there has been an actual as well as a relative decline, indicates both a higher law observance on the part of our people and a greater diligence on the part of officers of the law.

Greater progress is possible, however. Chicago, which on the basis of statistics is far from being the crime center of the country, has brought about a steady decrease in its homicide rate in the last three years. In 1930, Chicago had 350 murders; in 1931, 344, and in 1932, 328. In the latter year its rate was 9.31 for each 100,000 of population, less than one-third that of Birmingham's. This improvement in Chicago has been achieved through concerted action on the part of the public and officials. An aroused public opinion supported judges and police in a drive against crime that has steadily and surely modified conditions.

Birmingham, with 84 murders last year, is still in no position warranting complacency. This city, along with

others in the South, has been too prone to explain its high murder rate by the presence of a large Negro population. But that is only one cause. The South has been too lenient in the matter of possession of firearms. And we have adopted a too easy-going attitude toward Negro crime in general, not realizing how it affects the general problem. Birmingham could, if it wished, get even lower in the homicide rate column.

ALIEN MUD

The Chattanooga Times, which is quick to deplore lynchings in Alabama is not guilty of pointing to alien mud and ignoring the dark splotches on its own State. The Times is just as quick to deplore conditions at home as it is to turn up its hands in horror at the conduct of neighbors.

But The Times finds that not all papers, certainly not all individuals are so consistent. "Chicago's Librarian," apparently irked by the publicity received by his city because of gangster activities, has compiled and released for publication a defense by comparison. He points out that while there were 328 killings in Chicago in 1932, there were 25 other cities, including Washington, D.C., which had higher homicide rates than Chicago. The librarian's survey included 95 cities, each having more than 100,000 inhabitants. The table shows Jacksonville, Fla., at the top of the list, with a record of 61 killings in 1932 and a ratio of 43.88 homicides for each 100,000 of the population. Jacksonville stood second in the list for 1931, when Birmingham led cities having 100,000 population or more in the matter of homicide death rates. Other Southern cities in the Chicago librarian's list have deplorably high killing rates, just as they have had for several years. Chattanooga is not included in the available part of the list, but it doubtless ranges alongside the average Southern city in the matter of homicides. The record of cities in the South is one over which the section may well blush with shame. And Chicago has a rather poor defense if the best it can do is to say: 'I am bad, but some other cities are worse.'

Homicides in Southern Cities.

Librarian Rex of the Chicago Research Library, in a recent survey of principal cities gave the percentage of homicides per 100,000 for 1932, with Jacksonville, Atlanta and Memphis ranking first, second and third.

Southern cities doubtless will continue to hold first place due to the large percentage of negro population and the high percentage of crime unfortunately chargeable to that race. All southern cities are confronted with the same problem.

The Memphis situation is illustrative. There were 100 persons killed in Memphis in 1932. Eighty-eight were negroes and 12 whites. Captain Glisson, head of the homicide bureau, made a comprehensive analysis of the homicide situation early in the year. His findings are interesting. Prompt disposition of cases would seem to have a deterring influence, but evidence does not tend to prove it.

Of the 105 homicides, 19 persons were exonerated by the coroner's jury; in 15 instances the grand jury returned no true bill; 26 escaped; four unsolved; three killed resisting arrest, and eleven cases were pending in the courts the first of the year.

Only two who went to trial were acquitted. One case was nolleprosequed; one defendant committed suicide, and twenty-three convicted before the end of the calendar year.

The pistol continues to be the preferred weapon. Fifty-four out of 105 were killed with pistols. Enforcement of the law against sale of pistols might have a helpful effect.

The age of the slayers ranged from 13 to 54, with an average of 26.

Murder is not a seasonal enterprise. No definite conclusion could be reached regarding the influence of the weather, since 14 homicides occurred in April, 12 in September, 11 in January, 10 in December, while August, the hottest month in the year, and October, the most delightful, had five each.

Other sections of the country, where homicide percentage was

comparatively low, get an erroneous impression of southern cities. Why, then, do we have from two to five times as many murders per capita as the principal northern cities? The answer of some people will be that the South is afflicted with race friction, and that this leads to killings. But the records will show that the killing of a white man by a negro or a negro by a white, is relatively rare. Many of the southern slayings indeed are of negro by negro, but the record of killings of white by white is not greatly better.

The effect of crime among negroes is to give southern cities a reputation for lawlessness, whereas, physical violence. Can it be due to a more emperamental nature in southern men? Or can it be due to the fact that the race situation fosters frequent resort to violence, and that the sentiment so fostered spreads into other human relationships?

Southern cities that have the doubtful honor of ranking high in the percentage of homicides have a definite obligation. They should exert every influence to make more law-abiding citizens of the negroes in their community.

The record should also challenge the leaders of the negro race in each community. After all, they are the ones to whom the rank and file of negroes look for leadership and direction.

Memphis has any number of good citizens among the negro race. We have ministers, lawyers, doctors and business men whose ability and integrity are a credit to the race. They should assume the burden of responsibility for making better citizens of their people.

AUSTIN, TEX.
AMERICAN

AUG 25 1933

Murder in the South

The high murder rate in southern cities is due the most serious thought of every loyal southerner.

Why have we this record? The implication of the Chicago statistician who has just made it public—as is done regularly once a year—that it represents general lawlessness in the South is false, as all other statistics will show. We have, for instance, little or none of the organized gangsterism that afflicts Chicago; our robbery record is good, comparatively speaking. Our penitentiaries have relatively fewer inmates than those of many northern states; our

Murder In The South

illogical and inimical to the general welfare of the South. EVERY year with the release of statistics showing that more than twenty southern cities are ahead of Chicago in the number of homicides per 1,000 population committed within their boundaries. Apologists begin to point out, with considerable more rancor than reason, that the Negro is to be blamed. But an inspired and enlightened white leadership in the South is gradually provoking clear thinking on the subject.

For several years the JOURNAL AND GUIDE has pointed out that in Norfolk, a city in the South, the real cause lies with the whites. They have it within their power to reduce substantially the number of homicides committed by Negroes against Negroes, but they have failed to use it, either through indifference or because of an abortive concept of social equality.

It is a well known fact that fear will retard criminal instincts a thousand times while righteousness prevails once. If while one is meditating a murder—and most murders are premeditated—the thought should enter his mind that he will be made to pay for it by life imprisonment or death in the electric chair, the chances are that he will not commit the contemplated murder. On the other hand, if he is fairly certain that the most he will get, provided he makes his apprehension so simple that the most indifferent officer of the law cannot avoid it, is five or ten years in the penitentiary, very likely he will commit the murder if adequately provoked to do so.

Throughout the South Negroes know that if they are convicted of murdering another Negro, a white jury will impose a sentence of ten years at most. Hence the great part of the South's homicide record is attributable to the colored element of its population. And the reason is simply this: the white man either feels that an all-colored murder is just another triviality of the day's events, or thinks that to accord equal punishment to blacks and whites alike for the same crime is a form of social equality. Both are viciously

Despite the many times that this contention has been voiced by the JOURNAL AND GUIDE, little support has been given it by local white leadership. It is therefore refreshing to learn that dailies in other parts of the South have conceived the proper solution to this problem. We reprint on this page editorials from the *Richmond News Leader* and the *Raleigh News and Observer* which, by the way, mark another milestone in Southern cultural advancement.

What the Fingerprints Disclose

Criminal Records of the Country Show Increasing Proportion of

Those Involved are Less Than 24 Years of Age

(Some days ago "Entre Nous" contributed a letter to the Readers' Forum column in which he spoke out against the raiding of fruit trees, and censured parents or others who are disposed to consider such stealing a mere "boyish prank." Now the same reader sends us a clipping from *The Pathfinder*, which we reprint below:

Youth Leads In Crime

While a Senate subcommittee investigating crime conditions was hearing suggestions from a number of prominent law enforcement officials as to methods of curbing racketeering, etc., the division of Justice issued a bulletin covering a special study of crime statistics for the first half of this year which show that youths between the ages of 18 and 24 lead all age groups in major crimes.

According to this bulletin, for the entire first half of the calendar year 1933, individuals aged 19 exceeded in number those of any age group, although those of other ages between 18 and 24 were not greatly outnumbered. During this six-month period, it says, 159,493 arrest records were examined. The continuing predominance of youthful offenders is indicated by the fact that one out of each five arrested was under 21 years of age, while an additional one-fifth of those arrested was aged between 21 and 24 inclusive. A slightly smaller proportion of the total was between 25 and 29 years of age. In other words, almost three-fifths of the persons arrested during the first half of this year were under 30 years of age.

A table in the bulletin shows that during this period 6,253 persons under 21 years of age were arrested and charged with burglary-breaking of entering, 5,835 with larceny-theft, 2,459 with robbery and 2,458 with auto theft. In addition, 309 persons under 21 and 473 between 21 and 24 were arrested and charged with criminal homicide. It

QUINCY, MASS.
PATRIOT LEDGER

AUG 31 1933

further shows that a third of all persons arrested this year for disorderly conduct, drunkenness and vagrancy were under 25.

Of course the majority of the persons arrested were males. Of the total 159,493 only 6.9 per cent. or about 11,000 were females. Negroes, however, constituted 23 per cent. of all the persons whose records were examined by the bureau. Also, of the total persons charged with homicide, 34 per cent. were colored. The colored race had a correspondingly high proportion of individuals in the following instances: assault, 40 per cent.; carrying and possessing weapons, 33 per cent.; and gambling, 44 per cent. But the proportion of negroes charged with forgery and counterfeiting, embezzlement and fraud, offenses against the family, driving while intoxicated, and violation of the narcotic laws was comparatively small. And to show that old offenders repeat, 35 per cent. of the 159,493 persons arrested had previous crime records which were already in the files of the United States Bureau of Investigation at Washington.

At the end of June 1933, the bulletin further reveals, there were 3,780,584 fingerprint records and 4,901,443 index cards containing names or aliases of individuals with records on file in the bureau. Of each 100 fingerprints received during June, more than 47 were identified with criminal data in the files of the bureau. During that month nearly 350 fugitives from justice were identified through fingerprint records and information as to the whereabouts of these fugitives was immediately transmitted to the law enforcement officers trying to apprehend them. There are more than 5,900 police departments, peace officers, and law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and foreign countries that contribute fingerprints to Uncle Sam's giant fingerprint clearing house.

Crime - 1933

HELENA, ARK.

WORLD

JAN 18 1933

Nine Causes of Crime

In an address before the National Institute of Mercenary Crime in Chicago recently Frank J. Loesch, veteran foe of the lawless, listed what he claims are the nine specific causes of present-day crime. They follow:

1. Dishonesty in high finance.
2. The financing of prohibition and the prohibition enforcement laws of ordinary petty criminals on a gigantic scale.
3. The decline of religion and authority as restraining influences.
4. Largely unassimilable foreign immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe.
5. The existence of slum districts in our larger cities.
6. Incompetent, corrupt and politician-ridden police.
7. The auto, providing not only a new outlet for criminal activities, but also supplying the criminal with a valuable aid in escaping detection and apprehension.
8. Incompetent and inefficient prosecutors.
9. The Negro lawbreaker, operating largely as an individual and unsuited for gang crimes, who is largely a victim of improper living conditions in the large cities.

DIXIE PRISON CAMPS ARE RUN FOR PROFITS

Southern States Earn \$25,000,000 Yearly

by Chain Gangs

ALA SHERIFF'S FEES \$80,000

Harper's Writer Finds It New Slavery.

NEW YORK.—That the chain gang horrors of the South persist to such alarming proportions because the prevailing prison system exists to exploit the labor of human beings for profit rather than for the rehabilitation of law violators is the startling disclosure made by Walter Wilson, white, in an article "Chain Gangs and Profits" appearing in the April issue of Harper's magazine.

The writer, a Southerner, born in the mountains of Tennessee, presents, in all of its revolting brutality and bestiality, evidences that the chain gang horrors described as early as 1885 by George Washington Cable in his book, "The Silent South," still exist to a great degree and in many instances are considerably worse.

State, Politicians Profit

Mr. Wilson says:

"Humanitarian efforts—no matter how well motivated—to reform Southern prison gangs will continue to fail as long as the prevailing penological system exists. Southern prison gangs exist...to exploit the labor of human beings for profit—profit for private business men and the State—and indirectly, for politicians.

"The humanitarians do not see this...Very few realize that the beautiful highways one sees in the Southern chamber of commerce advertisements were built with unpaid labor driven under the lash. Of course prisoners are made to do many other kinds of work, including rock crushing, farming, levee building, coal mining and general construction work. But in recent years, road work has been the most important."

States Make \$25,000,000 annually. Punishment on Southern chain gangs in over seventy-five per cent of cases, the writer reports, is not doing enough work. State and county prisoners in the South, he ventures, do work valued at about \$25,000,000 annually.

Warden R. N. Youell, of Virginia, has estimated that convict road work done in his state in 1927 was valued at about \$4,000,000. In 1930 work of like nature was valued at \$3,777,000. Georgia, according to the 1923 Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, showed a convict labor production in road work valued at \$5,030,350.

In the four-year period ending September 30, 1926, Mr. Wilson reports, Alabama's gross income from her prison labor was \$15,110,398. This represented, however, only the state's share. Private business men made huge amounts in addition.

Sheriff Made \$80,000

"According to leading citizens of Alabama," Mr. Wilson writes, "the sheriff of Jefferson County in 1912 was earning \$50,000 to \$80,000 a year in fees. A clerkship in this county was worth at least \$25,000 in fees. Several sheriffs in Mississippi in 1930 earned over \$20,000 each and the leading one made \$24,350. The average for 82 counties was slightly less than \$6,000. The same individuals in civil life would probably earn \$100 a month if they were so fortunate as to find a job."

"An authority on prisons cites one instance of a Negro in Alabama who was fined one dollar and costs. The costs were seventy-five dollars. As the officials depend on arrests and convictions for their livelihood, they are always zealously on the alert for criminals. Let a shabbily dressed, friendless stranger wander into town or an unemployed worker get caught riding a freight train or a hungry Negro steal a pound of butter—the law draws in all such as an electric magnet draws in steel."

Frame-ups Used

"And if no 'criminals' are found, the sheriff sends out an undercover man to engage a group of Negroes in a crap game. The game is then raided. The mill of criminal justice grinds most industriously when men are needed for a big road-making job."

Mr. Wilson declares that ever since the Civil War, huge profits have been made out of convict forced labor, pointing out that in fact, to a larger extent than realized, the convict labor system superseded chattel slavery.

Cotton, sugar, rice, livestock and other commodities are produced on large state prison farms and sold in the open market. Mississippi farms showed an income in a four-year period ending June 1928 of \$2,354,260, with goods on hand valued at \$376,687.

Cites Hoover Incident

The writer cites the use of forced convict labor on jobs of a patriotic

nature, such as work on the bridge across the Potomac leading to the Lincoln Memorial and the work on the Lee Memorial Boulevard. Ex-President Hoover, he reports, was to have broken ground for this latter job but canceled the engagement after his press secretary, Theodore Joslin, had been asked by a newspaper correspondent whether Hoover's acceptance of the invitation came after the State Highway Commissioner had imported 100 convicts to do the actual work on the new road.

Torture of men and women, Mr. Wilson relates, sometimes forces them to the risk of their lives to deliberately mutilate themselves in order to gain temporary sanctuary from the hospital.

Morals Debased

"Such environment and treatment," he writes, "brutalize a man. He loses his identity as his spirit slowly weakens and breaks. His moral resistance to vice of every sort is almost inevitably battered down. One result is the widespread practice of homosexuality. This is made worse by the fact that young prisoners are placed in intimate contact with hardened old men. But what is worse, prison officials have been known to assign 'gal-boys' to model, hard-working prisoners as a reward for their conduct."

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

AUG 23 1933

THE MURDER COUNTRY

The South still continues the murder country. Neither the gangs of Chicago nor of New York have been able with all their modern methods of killing to approximate the murder rate which prevails in the South. Of ninety-five American cities having a population of 100,000 or more, twelve of the thirteen with the highest murder rates in 1932 were located in the South.

The obvious explanation is that the South has so large an element of Negroes in its population. That is true but the enforcement of the laws in the South is wholly in the hands of the white people. The truth seems to be that there is too little regard in the courts of the South for human life if that life be black.

The murder of one Negro by another is not regarded with great indignation in the South.

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States Make \$25,000,000

Punishment on Southern chain gangs in over seventy-five per cent of cases, the writer reports, is for the Lee Memorial Boulevard. Ex-county prisoners in the South, he reports, do work valued at about \$25,000,000 annually.

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the South. Not so directly, but inevitably, it reduces, too, the safety of every Southerner, white as well as black, from criminals and killers.

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Chain Gang Tortures Used Against Negro and White Toilers

Convicts Are Subjected to Horrible Punishment; Brutal Treatment of Militant Tampa Prisoners; Save Angelo Herndon from Similar Fate!

By WALTER WILSON

Editor's Note: This is the second of six installments appearing in the "Daily Worker" from the new book, "Forced Labor in the United States," by Walter Wilson. A complete picture of the forced labor system will be gotten from a reading of the book, of which the following is an extract. Prepared under the direction of the Labor Research Association. Introduction by Theodore Dreiser. International Publishers, \$1.

WORK on the chain gang, one of the chief penal institutions of the South, is the most brutal type of convict forced labor in the United States.

Men toil on these gangs from sun to sun, from 10 to 14 hours a day according to season. They are slaves without any capital value. Beaten and killed—it really doesn't matter to their masters. Other workers can be brought to take their places. The men slave at crushing rock, felling trees, building levees, digging ditches, building roads. Brutal guards with whips and guns watch to see that the stripe-clothed convicts work speedily and continuously. Blisters and sores from worn-out, ill-fitting shoes, and swollen, blistered, calloused hands are inevitable. Infections are frequent as a result.

The men in charge of the gangs are brutal and ignorant. Perhaps the most notorious of such trusty guards was Cecil Houston, known as the "Killer of Flat Top," an Alabama convict serving a life term for murder. This killer, together with others like him, was used to enforce the speed-up by the state and private coal companies which had leased the prisoners. It was proved that Houston killed several fellow prisoners and had broken both arms of at least one other prisoner, by the heels with a steel wire for two hours, blood behind an unsuspecting convict and with a heavy hickory pick-handle knock him cold. Then before his victim regained consciousness Houston would break both his arms, ties, thereby preventing any resistance. These brutal methods were used primarily to make the prisoners work faster and produce more coal. Houston was given a special bonus for all coal that was produced.

His favorite method was to slip behind an unsuspecting convict and with a heavy hickory pick-handle knock him cold. Then before his victim regained consciousness Houston would break both his arms, ties, thereby preventing any resistance. These brutal methods were used primarily to make the prisoners work faster and produce more coal. Houston was given a special bonus for all coal that was produced.

CHAIN GANG TORTURES

Punishment of chain gang slaves is nine times out of ten is for not doing enough work—not keeping up with pace-setters. The punishment includes binding in cuffs and shackles, flogging (as high as 100 blows with a heavy leather whip), and confinement in "dog houses" or sweat boxes, clabbing and binding in stocks which suspend the body by the legs and arms in the manner of stocks used in New England in the early days.

The sweat boxes are small, like cells just large enough to suspend a man in an upright position. A small hole the size of a silver dollar lets in the only air. The cell is placed in the hot tropic sun, or sometimes a metal plate underneath is heated with fire. It is one of the worst of all prison tortures.

A good idea of torture can be had by analyzing conditions in a typical gang. Nevin C. Cranford, a chain gang superintendent of a Stanley County, North Carolina, gang was indicted on charges of murdering at least six prisoners. An investigating committee took sworn testimony, which revealed that: Grady Sides, a prisoner, stated that his wrist was broken while cranking a tractor; that no surgical attention was given; that his arm was jerked straight but not dressed; that no doctor saw him; that he was made to continue at work with his broken arm hanging useless at his side. D. Cage Hahn, a citizen, testified that Cranford knocked a Negro prisoner into the creek while he was heavily shackled and ordered two other prisoners to jump in and drown him. Cranford admitted that the speed-up by the state and private coal companies which had leased the prisoners. It was proved that Houston killed several fellow prisoners and had broken both arms of at least one other prisoner, by the heels with a steel wire for two hours, blood behind an unsuspecting convict and with a heavy hickory pick-handle knock him cold. Then before his victim regained consciousness Houston would break both his arms, ties, thereby preventing any resistance. These brutal methods were used primarily to make the prisoners work faster and produce more coal. Houston was given a special bonus for all coal that was produced.

MURDER PRISONERS

A Spanish-American War veteran was whipped to death on a Memphis, Tennessee, gang in 1932. The cause of his death was reported as "a blocked artery," but the undertaker discovered evidence of a terrible flogging. Odell Johnson, a 19-year-old August, Georgia, sweat-box by a trace chain until he died on a Greenwood, South Carolina, gang from "sunstroke" in July, 1931. Later fellow prisoners charged that he was murdered, and Governor Ibra C. Blackwood ordered an "investigation."

Thomas Farmer, a young convict was a rare exception in the prison life of Florida. . . . On the whole our prisoners are well cared for and brought out that Farmer was mal-treated, including being chained to a chain gang, who should know

Negroes at Work in Georgia Chain Gang



Notice the steel spikes, which weigh 20 pounds, riveted on the feet of the man in the middle. These spikes often cause an infection known as "shackle sores."

talk differently.

MILITANT WORKERS TERRORIZED

In Florida prison camps and chain gangs in 1932 there were 11 of the 14 Tampa prisoners who were imprisoned for terms ranging from one to ten years for helping to organize workers into the Tobacco Workers Industrial Union. These prisoners have received particularly brutal treatment because they were militant workers. Some have been put through the sweat box.

The threat of a year on the chain gang hangs over all organizers of the Communist Party and Trade Union Unity League in Birmingham, Alabama. There the police arrested organizers (who were employed by their organizations and received wages for their work) and charged them with vagrancy, which carries a sentence of one year on the chain gang.

One Negro organizer in Chattanooga was rushed to the county chain gang after being convicted on a political charge before an appeal against the sentence could be filed, although intention to do so was declared at the trial. His release was forced by the International Labor Defense and the sentence defeated. One organizer was arrested while asleep in his hotel room by city detectives in Birmingham and charged with vagrancy!

And now we have the case of Angelo Herndon, militant Negro worker and unemployed organizer, sentenced for 10 to 20 years on a Georgia chain gang.

Read tomorrow's Daily Worker for the third installment of the sensational new book, "Forced Labor in the United States." It will contain a record of the modern slavery of Negro and poor white farmers—peonage.

Crime-1933

General.

WHAT A CONTRAST

The press reports of the week noted that five hundred colored persons were indiscriminately arrested in New Orleans on account of certain robberies in that city. Imagine the number of innocent persons embarrassed on account of this unjustified raid of police officers. Contrast this with more serious offenses committed against colored people. In these cases only perfunctory efforts are even made to apprehend the guilty parties. Notably may be sighted the several lynchings within the fast few weeks in Alabama. Not a person has been arrested, not even as a suspect, notwithstanding the fact that this is many times more serious an offense than robbery. The officials are mute and inactive. The heralded grand jury investigation is apparently merely to detract the mind of the people. Those states with unequal law enforcement will be appraised accordingly by the lovers of justice the world over.

Crime-1933

Kelly Miller Says---

THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT

has been repealed, and crime is running riot. While the nation is celebrating the victory over the triumph of alcoholism, the rehearing of the Scottsboro case reminds us how race prejudice wreaks vengeance with or without the law. The Eastern Shore mob is repudiating the authority of the governor in open defiance; Missouri is lynching a rape suspect and burning his body at the stake; the rabble in Louisiana is burning ballots, while its California counterpart is burning human bodies. Perhaps the nation has never before, at one time, witnessed such a widespread orgy of lawlessness and crime.

These unsophisticated mind imputes causal relation wherever it notes causal connection. The overthrow of prohibition cannot, in any proper sense, be held responsible for these wide-spread outbreaks of lawlessness, but they all spring from the same deep seated cause—popular disregard for law and established order which may for the moment run counter to personal prejudice and local passion. The failure of the eighteenth amendment is due to the fact that the prohibition law was placed on the statute book abortively, before the common mind of the people was ready or willing to obey it. As a result there sprung up in its wake many forms of crime which grew out of the law itself. Some of these were either new or given a newness of emphasis and meaning. Such terms as speak easy, the bootlegger, the racketeer, the gangster and the kidnaper were given vogue in the lexicon of crime.

Law is but self imposed restraint which the community sets up to restrain the primitive passion and instinct. It is effective only to the extent that the vast majority of individuals are willing to obey and uphold it. Otherwise it is powerless, unless the willing majority is prepared by force to compel obedience upon the rebellious minority. With the eighteenth amendment this was not the case.

On the other hand, the majority which impose the law gave way to the clamorous minority whose behest the law was wiped off the statute book. It is a dangerous precedent to rescind a righteous law. The whole fabric of social order is weakened thereby. The rescindment of the eighteenth amendment is the first in the direction of moral apostasy. Although the fifteenth and portions of the fourteenth amendment are held in disregard by localities, states and regions, yet the majority sentiment has never yielded to the demand for rescindment. It winks and connives at nullification but balks at expungment.

All of this but indicates the helplessness of the nation which is at the mercy of the mob and the despoilers of the law. Diagnosis of the cause must precede application of the remedy. What boots it to pass laws against lynching, gangsterdom and kidnaping when the governor of a great state condones the mob? This nation must be born again, if it would enter into the kingdom of law and order. A new mind must be created.

Why are there fifteen times as many murders in New York as in London? It is because these two world metropolises are differently morally minded. The British have it drilled and instilled in them to obey the law; the American has not. Why is Jamaica free from the charge of rape and lynching while Georgia abounds in alleged crime and its condign punishment. The difference cannot be accounted for in terms of racial complication; but the British subject, white or black, reverts the law; the free and independent American citizen does not.

The President in the White House is as impotent as the moralist in the pulpit. All are held tight in the vice of the disordered public mind. The remedy must be as deep seated as the disease. The moral nature of the nation must be quickened. Rugged individuality must not go to the extent of

overriding the law of the community. A 17-year-old boy in San Jose, who ought to be in school learning how to revere and obey the law, must not be idolized as a hero for leading the mob to lynch and burn a human being. This boy is morally irresponsible. The responsibility devolves upon the debased moral sentiment of the country which appeals to the recklessness of youth.

After all, religion furnishes the highest sanction for reverence of and obedience of the law. As religion weakens, lawlessness increases. Our religious discipline is weakened all but to the breaking point. The effect is reflected in all but universal lawlessness.

An unknown Catholic priest in St. Joseph, Missouri, has indicated the road to national regeneration of conscience. He has called upon Catholic participants in the mob which lynched and burned a human being to come before his confessor and there confess his sin. For the crime of murder is still sin, however we may seek to glose it over. Woe be to that nation which has lost its sensibility to sin. The old Hebrew query still answers itself: Wherewithal shall a nation cleanse its ways?—by taking heed thereof, according to thy law, the law of conscience.

Galaxy, S. C. Ledger
December 28, 1933

STAND AGAINST CRIME.

The American Bar Association is undertaking a comprehensive survey of the problems of law enforcement, presumably incited to action by the lynching and other lawlessness that have occurred in several states recently.

It is a subject for unhappy comment that the votaries of our legal system wait for lawless mobs to shock their sensibilities into action. But "twere ever thus." It appears to be the way of progress that we lock the stable door after the horse has been stolen.

Lawlessness has been rampant in the large metropolitan centers for several years. Gangsters, racketeers, kidnappers, and murderers have terrorized these communities. The local legal machinery has proved impotent to bring them to justice. Many local law-enforcement agents have become so inert, feeble and callous to crime in favor of invoking federal proceedings.

Some go so far as to declare that the states should be deprived of the police power by constitutional amendment. Others believe that lynchers can be brought to justice when the state enforcement breaks down. They cite the Congressional Act of 1870, which makes it a misdemeanor for an officer of the law in any state to permit a citizen to be deprived of the right to person or property.

The American Bar Association is directing its movement not only against lynching and other lawlessness, but is attacking abuses in the administration of the law. After completing its survey the Association will set forth clearly a program whereby desired changes may be effected.

Such questions as the following will be studied: the relation between politics and crime; activities of lawyers who are employed by the underworld; racketeers and their extortions from business concerns; court methods in disposing of criminal cases; zeal and efficiency of prosecuting officers; crime in relation to its detection and prevention by

criminal minded in England fear the quick police officers, etc. This movement deserves the co-operation trial and summary punishment in the courts of every lawyer in the country in arriving at under a criminal code that protects the people the facts. There is plenty of opportunity for people in their homes and daily walks of life. If public spirited citizens to play their part, not our states should evolve a criminal procedure only in developing a workable program, but quite as efficient, then there will be no excuse in executing it after it is set up. Our juries for the people to resort to a violation of the can be greatly strengthened if intelligent, law in order to punish wrong-doers.

high standing citizens will evince a greater interest in serving on them.

In England lynching is scarcely known. There it is not necessary to deter the acts of the criminal by fear of mob violence. The

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Southern Press Makes Fun of Shooting Attack on Negro

Boss Papers Also Tell
"Funny" Stories of
Convict Camps

By JIM MALLORY

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—In the code worked out by the Southern Bourbons, shooting down "niggers" is good clean sport, and working convicts to death is hilariously funny—and the Southern white press never fails to make the most of such delightful bits of humor.

The Atlanta Constitution of Dec. 8 deals, in what is supposed to be a "lightly whimsical" manner, with the story of what happened to Henry Duncan. Duncan was walking with a companion from Atlanta to Covington. A car containing five white men gave the Negroes a lift. When they reached the side road which Duncan had to take, he asked to be let out. The car did not stop. Duncan's friend jumped out. The white men drove Duncan a mile further, stopped the car, and told the Negro to get out and run. As Duncan ran down the road, the five whites leveled their pistols at him and opened fire. One bullet struck him in the leg. He is recovering in the Grady hospital.

Not to be outdone in humorous anecdote, the Houston correspondent of the Associated Press sent out a story concerning the practice of confining convicts at the retrieve farm of the Texas state prison system, of cutting off fingers, hands and feet in order to escape the grueling tortures of forced labor on the farm. Within the last few days, two convicts chopped off their fingers and a third cut off his arm, in the hope that they would be transferred to the Huntsville Penitentiary. One of these convicts said that in addition to back-breaking toil, he had twice been forced to "stand on the barrel". This is a form of punishment reserved for the hours after work. The "offender" must come straight from the field, stand on an upturned barrel for an hour, rest for one hour, and then stand on the barrel again until midnight.

Captain Ike Kelley, manager of the farm, explained casually to the A. P. reporter that last fall there was a very "regular epidemic" of "foot-chopping" among the convicts.

The A. P. writer, not being entirely devoid of a sense of humor, labels the practices of the convicts in cutting off their hands and feet as "bizarre". They story has been widely printed in Southern newspapers.

The Southern white and Negro workers, reading these "anecdotes" in full vigor the grand jury as

in the press, long for a speedier tempo to the movement of Southern labor, which will still the laughter of these Bourbons in their throats.

HARRISBURG, PA.

TELEGRAPH

DEC 29 1933

CHANGED LEGAL PROCEDURE

AN IMPORTANT proposal as to a criminal procedure has been submitted by the Association of Grand Jurors of New York County. It is the belief of those concerned that it will fill a long-felt want by strengthening the criminal law and expediting criminal procedure throughout the United States.

There is so much in the way of legal procedure waiting correction that the legislatures of 1934 will have their hands full on a definite program. Among many things to be considered are the following: making false swearing a misdemeanor; compel those offering an alibi defense to present a bill of particulars five days before trial; simplify prosecutions of receivers of stolen goods; deny bail to accused persons caught with strong prima facie cases against them and having previous convictions of serious offenses; allow each side to impeach its own witness; reduce number of mandatory jury exemptions; reduce number of peremptory jury challenges; strengthen anti-slot machine law; establish in all counties of large population permanent grand jury lists; pass an amendment allowing conviction by a vote of five-sixth of the jury, excepting in capital cases; pass uniform act for extradition of persons of unsound mind; uniform narcotic act; uniform machine gun and submachine gun act (where the ground is not already covered by similar acts); make it a felony to jump bail in a felony case, establish in every state a department of justice which shall have disciplinary supervision over all police, prosecutors and judges; give preference to criminal cases in which material witnesses are detained because unable to furnish bail; speed up all criminal procedure, which is held to be a remedy for lynchings; retain in full vigor the grand jury as

the only investigating agency feared by organized criminals; provide for special speeding up of justice in kidnaping, blackmail and extortion cases; bar kidnapers, blackmailers and extortionists from parole; compel parole boards to stop granting parole in secret after secret hearings; extend the Lindbergh Mail Threat Law of July 8, 1932, providing a maximum penalty of twenty years for sending a threat against person or property; extend Federal Mail Fraud Act to cover fraud committed by any interstate communication whatever; extend the Dyer Act punishing interstate transfer of stolen motor vehicles to cover interstate transfer of any stolen goods by any means whatever; deny within specified geographical areas bail to persons who are arrested in one Federal jurisdiction and fight removal to another Federal jurisdiction for trial.

TROY, N. Y.

EVENING RECORD

AUG 22 1933

THE AMERICAN MURDER RATE.

Statistics have just been compiled to show the murder rate for 1932 in leading American cities. Jacksonville leads, with other Southern cities following it. This is due to the high rate of homicide among the Negro population of the South. But such Northern municipalities as Washington, St. Louis, Cleveland and Chicago have no freedom from capital crime of which to boast.

During the year there were 478 murders in New York City and 328 in Chicago. The number of convictions and sentences for such crime was comparatively negligible. All England, Scotland and Wales had in the same period fewer murders than New York; and half of the perpetrators of the murders paid the penalty for them.

Something is the matter with our policing or our judicial system or both. Commissions make recommendations; but the conditions remain. It is time the federal government ceased its theoretical studies of the situation and worked out some sort of a plan under which the United States will have a more enviable record. It now stands before civilization as the country where it is safest to commit a murder and where homicide is commonest. This does not speak well for American respect for the sanctity of human life.

WHO DARES SAY STATES RIGHTS?

In this day of insistent demand that the federal government undertake the punishment of kidnappers, the member of Congress who would say he was op-

posed to an anti-lynching law because it was an infringement of states rights, would laugh at his own inconsistency.

It all depends upon whose ox is gored. When the lives of Negroes were being snuffed out at the rate of a hundred a year, with southern mobs lynching even women relatives of persons accused, we were told blandly that the rights of states were too sacred for any legislation to be passed for our protection. But when white men, women and children are in danger, The Roosevelts, the Lindberghs and the McElroys, the absurdity of talking about law being more than life makes everybody forget state boundaries.

The federal government may leave to states the details of law enforcement, but there never ought to be any question about both its right and its duty to protect citizens at home and abroad. Humble though Negroes are, we should have had the ear of Uncle Sam always.

We are the try-cake of this nation. So helpless are we that whatever works in our case is bound to be helpful to all other elements. Instead of the United States ignoring our pleas, it will take a stitch in time if it will lend ear early and correct the evils we suffer, before they rise high and clutch even the most favored citizens.

HAVE POLICEMEN NO LEGS?

When a policeman can arrest a notorious gangster and deliver him to jail in the patrol wagon, there is no excuse for his killing the small fry who at most are accused of misdemeanors. Two such killings have taken place in the last thirty days. Both victims were accused of petty crimes for which if guilty they would have been punished with a few days in jail. Because they ran, they were killed.

The police cannot afford to throw away the public's goodwill. Both for the apprehension and conviction of criminals, they need the people, and the people do not think a disturbance or a petty theft warrants death.

Heavy penalties for minor crimes have always defeated their purpose. Draco, a law giver back in the days when the ruler was absolute, tried them, fixing death as the penalty for even misdemeanors. But his system failed because men could not be found to enforce it. These policemen who think authority is flouted when an accused runs, give up more than they preserve. They would feel a lot better if they too took to their heels instead of their pistols and caught their man. As it is the public cannot escape thinking that sometimes they kill innocent men.

It is no excuse that a suspect should respect the uniform and obey when ordered to stop.

The Murder Record for 1932

Dr. Frederick B. Hoffman, statistician of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, has again published in the *Spectator* his annual summary of the homicide record in 180 American cities. And once more it is necessary to call attention to the current fallacy that murder is more frequent among foreign-born Americans than among the native stock. The evidence is quite to the contrary. Indeed the 15 cities that head the list have only a small proportion of foreign-born: Memphis, 54.2 murders per 100,000 population; Lexington, Ky., 53.6; Jacksonville, Fla., 52.2; Little Rock, 44.8; Montgomery, 43.6; Charleston, S. C., 43.5; Savannah, 42.2; Birmingham, 40.8; Atlanta, 39.7; Augusta, 37.1; Miami, 35.9; Mobile, 35.8; Petersburg, Va., 34.4; Macon, 33.3; Dallas, 29.7. It would be instructive if we knew just how much of this is due to the readiness of white men to kill Negroes.

At the bottom of the scale, we find 22 cities with a clear record of no homicides in 1932: Altoona, Pa., Auburn, N. Y., Bethlehem, Pa., Chelsea, Mass., Concord, N. H., Fresno, Calif., Grand Rapids, Mich., Haverhill, Mass., Holyoke, Mass., Lakewood, Ohio, Lowell, Mass., Madison, Wis., Massillon, Ohio, Medford, Mass., New Bedford, Mass., Newport, R. I., Orange, N. J., Pittsfield, Mass., Reading, Pa., Salem, Mass., Schenectady, N. Y., Somerville, Mass. And of these the following had a clean slate the preceding year as well: Auburn, Concord, Holyoke, Medford, New Bedford, Newport and Orange. It will be observed that many of these cities are noted for the high percentage of foreign-born citizens.

Certain other large cities were ranked in this order: Kansas City, 20.4; Cincinnati, 16.2; St. Louis, 14.3; Cleveland, 13.5; Chicago, 12.8; Denver, 10.2; Baltimore, 10.0; Detroit, 9.6; Los Angeles, 8.4; New York City, 8.0; Philadelphia, 7.8; San Francisco, 6.9; Seattle, 6.4; Minneapolis, 4.4; St. Paul, 3.6; Rochester, 3.6; Buffalo, 3.4; Milwaukee, 3.0.

And in the interest of American humility let the fact be recorded that the latest average for England and Wales was 0.5.

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 7 1933
FEDERAL CONTROL HERE.

This City, It Is Held, Needs Help
More Than the South.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

I read with interest the letter of George Foster Peabody referring to the editorial in THE TIMES which states that the high homicide rate in the South is probably due not so much to "the presence of large Negro populations but rather the standard of law and order to which a particular community may reconcile itself." Mr. Peabody suggests that the remedy for this condition is Federal assistance to Negro schools in the South in order to raise the literacy rate and thus reduce the crime rate.

It is pertinent to ask here why the Federal Government should limit its efforts to improve conditions of crime just in the South. I have heard many thoughtful people say that the only way to raise the low standard of law and order to which the people of New York have seemingly reconciled themselves is for the United States Government to take over municipal control of New York City. For years investigations have been revealing appalling graft and corruption, yet Tammany continues to win elections year after year. Judge Seabury stated a few days ago that every business enterprise in New York, from the smallest retail shop to the leasing of public property, is paying tribute to the racketeers. Every one knows this, but does any one do anything about it? After all, conditions of this sort can only exist with the consent of the governed.

On the other hand, the South seems to be making a genuine effort to educate its Negroes, for illiteracy rates have been steadily declining. I see no reason why taxpayers in other sections of the country should lend assistance to that section when it is already solving its greatest problem. But I seriously believe that if New Yorkers do not set their house in order the day will come when America's greatest city will find itself passing into some centralized control outside the jurisdiction of Tammany

Hall.

FORMER NEW YORKER.

Hartford, Conn., April 5, 1933.

BLEEDING HEARTS IN MICHIGAN AND NEW JERSEY

The kindly Governor of the noble State of Michigan has joined the gentle Governor of the great State of New Jersey in offering refuge to fugitives from Georgia.

These worthy gentlemen are to be commended, not only for their goodness of heart and love of oppressed mankind but also for shrewd business foresight in making a bid for the tourist trade.

This, one suspects, is embarrassing to the Georgia chambers of commerce. Up in Michigan and New Jersey erstwhile institutional residents of the Southern State are most likely to overlook the "It's Great to Be a Georgian" slogan for the more appropriate "It's Great to Be a Georgia Fugitive in Other States."

As the score now stands it is two to one against Georgia with 46 States (including Delaware) not yet committed.

This is deplorable.

We, for one, are in favor of denying extradition for any and all prisoners who escape from Georgia into the other States. And that more States have not announced that they, too, will offer refuge to escaped Georgia convicts is nothing less than a blot across the map of this Republic.

But, of course, crime might have something to do with the reticence of these other 46 States.

In New Jersey crime is practically unknown. The chief function of the State police department is the patrolling of Atlantic City boardwalks, while in Detroit, the buildings once used for jails are now being used to store surplus funds for bloated, bond-holding mechanics.

Governor Comstock of Michigan, in denying extradition of a Georgia automobile thief this week, reminds the nation that Michigan was one of the first States to offer refuge to escaped slaves in the days of William Lloyd Garrison. The Governor hints that other Georgia chain-gang fugitives are tendered invitations to "make Michigan their home."

We wish to remind Michigan, however, that it was not successful in wiping out slavery, not in Fulton County, Georgia anyway.

In Atlanta, the city of which Fult

County and Georgia are suburbs, the feudal lords sell human chattels over the counters, so to speak.

Every oak tree on the famous Peachtree Street is a stock at which innocent prisoners are chained. And all Georgia prisoners are innocent, because it is not customary to imprison guilty men in Georgia. They send the guilty to Hollywood to act as prison guards in motion pictures.

Georgia's chief industry is manufacturing chains. Its chief sport is lashing convicts in the public squares.

Georgia statesmen enjoy spending huge sums of money extraditing escaped convicts so that vengeance may be had by inflicting brutal punishment upon them.

Fortunate indeed are New Jersey and Michigan residents whose Governors have things so well in hand that they find time to further their duties by acting as jurors in Georgia criminal cases.

Both have shown tenderness of heart and excellent judgment by adhering to the distressing pleas of innocent fugitives rather than to demands of justice by a commonwealth proven unworthy by the indisputable words of convicted criminals.

It would be terrible, indeed, if Congress should see fit to enforce an article in the Federal Constitution, which oddly enough commands the States of the Union to surrender fugitives wanted on felony charges in other States to the proper authorities.

Youths of 19 Years Lead In Nation's Crime Parade

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 31 1933

Topics of The Times

Leaders in Killing.

Our world leadership in homicide remained unchallenged among civilized nations in 1932, according to the annual report by Dr. FREDERICK B. HOFFMAN. For nearly 200 American cities the murder rate last year is twenty-two times as high as the rate for all England.

Yet one thing must not be overlooked. Between groups of American cities the variation in the killing habit may be almost as wide as between this country and England. There is Binghamton, N. Y., with an average for the last two years of 2.5 murders for every 100,000 population, and Birmingham, Ala., with a rate of 48. The rate in Boston is 3 and in Memphis it is 52. In other words, the South continues to swell heavily the average for the whole country.

It is not a question entirely of the presence of large Negro populations, but rather of the standard of law and order to which a particular community may reconcile itself. There are many Negroes in Philadelphia, but its homicide rate is well below the national average. The heavy influx of Negroes into New York after the war has not perceptibly raised the homicide rate.

Some measure of comfort is to be found in the fact that 1932 showed a slight decline from the preceding year. Apparently a deepening economic depression did not stimulate crime against human life.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—(UP) Persons of 19 years of age lead the nation's crime parade, and automobile stealing is their most widespread offense, the department of justice announced tonight.

It compiled figures from fingerprint cards received by the bureau of investigation for the first three months of 1933.

The second largest group is made up of persons between 19 and 21.

"The following figures," reads the bureau's report, "shows the percentage of the total number of persons arrested who were under 21 years of age:

"Auto theft, 45.8 per cent.

"Burglary, 38.8 per cent.

"Robbery, 27.9 per cent.

"Persons under 25 years of age constituted 40 per cent of those arrested records were examined, and persons between 25 and 29 years of age accounted for approximately 19 per cent of the total number arrested.

The figures are based on 80,785 arrest records as evidenced by the fingerprint cards received by the identification bureau.

"Most of the persons arrested were males, the females numbering only 5,221 or 6.5 per cent. Approximately 35 per cent of the persons arrested had a previous record in the identification files of the United States bureau of investigation. As has consistently been the case in the previous tabulations, those charged with violation of the narcotic laws had the highest percentage of previous records, it being 55 per cent.

"Persons arrested for embezzlement, fraud, forgery and counterfeiting likewise had a high percentage of previous records."

The extent of the work which the bureau does in its increasing battle against crime is shown by the announcement that there are 3,594,224 criminal fingerprint records on file. There are 4,594,224 index cards containing the names and aliases of persons with criminal records.

LYNCHBURG, VA. ADVANCE

APR 7 1933

AMERICA'S HOMICIDE RECORD

Dr. Frederick B. Hoffman, statistician, has just compiled this nation's homicide record for 1932 and the statistics reveal that southern communities have the largest percentage of killings per 100,000 population than other cities throughout the country. Memphis leads with a record of 54.2 per 100,000 population. Lexington, Ky., stands second with a rate of 53.6, and Jacksonville is third with a rate of 52.2. Little Rock, Montgomery, Charleston, S. C., Savannah and Birmingham are almost on a par with the leading cities.

While the homicide record for the United States as a whole did not show any improvement last year, there are at least some bright spots. Chicago with the reputation of the most dangerous city in the nation, had 37 fewer killings in 1932 as compared with 1931. New York also showed a slight decrease in homicides while Boston's rate of 3.1 per 100,000 population dropped to 2.5.

The high homicide rate prevalent in southern cities is due to entirely different causes than the homicide rate in the larger cities in the east and middle west. Memphis, Lexington, Ky., Jacksonville and other cities with high rates have large Negro populations and it is because of killings among the colored race that these communities have black records. However, the Negro homicides are for the most part personal slayings. They involve no gangster reigns of terror that annually snuff out the lives of hundreds in Chicago, New York and other large cities. As a matter of fact the streets of any southern city, despite the high homicide rates, are far safer than are the streets in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and other cities with lower murder rates.

Of course every effort should be made in southern communities to reduce the homicide rates. The average person in examining the murder record of the country is not familiar with the conditions that bring about the high rates in the south and only by a drastic reduction in killings can the south hope to approach the national rate of 10.8 persons per 100,000 of population.

"Human life," says Dr. Hoffman in

summing up his comment on the 1932 record, "was never as cheap and insecure in the United States as it is at the present time, and murder is decidedly more common in this country than in any other which makes a claim of being civilized." There can be no disputing of what Dr. Hoffman says. The United States in the last five years has had more homicides than battle-field casualties in the late struggle against Germany. More than 51,000 persons have been murdered in half a decade and it is doubtful that if the combined slayings in half a dozen of the larger nations of the world can approach that figure. The record of England and Wales, which is 0.5 killings per 100,000 population, is a mark at which to shoot. America, with its heterogeneous population, may not reach it but in trying we might materially improve the existing situation.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

APR 25 1933

STILL HOMICIDALLY FIRST.

The homicide record of America gets no better. In fact it continues to get worse. The records compiled for 1932, while showing a slight decline in the rate for the more populous centers, reveals that no improvement occurred for the national average.

The average for the Nation, which contrasts so unfavorably with that of other civilized countries, is substantially raised by the very high rates in the colored population, although it is to be noted the rates are high for the whites in some cities having large negro population. Memphis, for example, has a rate of 11.8 for whites and 144.2 for negroes. Birmingham 17.8 for white and 89.7 for negroes. New Orleans 11.1 for whites, 64 for negroes, Atlanta 14.1 for whites and 109.8 for negroes. On the other hand, Dallas has only 7.9 for whites, 52.7 for negroes, Louisville 7.3 for whites and 84.7 for negroes.

The general average for the Nation being 10.8 per 100,000 for 1932, about the same as 1931; the statistics for England and Wales show for that year 1.5 per 100,000. Thirteen cities in Canada had a rate of 1.6 in 1931 and of 1.3 in 1932.

The lawless inclinations of the American people present a study for the social and patriotic minds of this land with a more compelling emphasis today than ever before because of the manner in which the age-level among criminals is fluctuating.

When we read that 40 out of every 100 criminals in the United States in 1932 were under 25 years of age, the full force of the present-day trends in law violation flails us in the face.

This means that our standards for law observance and our methods of preventing crime are not appealing to the young mind.

Youthhood is no longer afraid of what society will do to it if, forsooth, it breaks forth upon a program of crime. And here is reflected a fearful, if not a fatal, break-down in our system, even that of our jurisprudence not being exempt from fault-finding at this point.

Corrupt politics and the slow, cumbersome, often uncertain and ineffectual processes of our court administration, get into this equation.

HOMICIDE RECORD REMAINS AT PEAK

3-30-33
Nation Still Leads World

Number of Violent Deaths,

Insurance Report Shows.

3-30-33
LAX PISTOL LAWS SCORED

Rate for 1932 of 10.8 Per 100,000

Unchanged From 1931—Figures

From 180 Cities Compiled.

The United States again led the civilized nations of the world in 1932 in the number of homicides, according to Dr. Frederick B. Hoffman, statistician, whose survey of the subject is published in The Spectator, an insurance periodical. Basing his conclusions on reports from 180 cities in the United States, Dr. Hoffman found that the rate per 100,000 of population did not vary from that of 1931. While the returns for the year are not yet complete, actual figures for the five years beginning in 1927 and ending with 1931 show that 51,206 persons in the country met death by homicide.

Analyzing the returns from 180 cities studied, Dr. Hoffman found that in seventy the rate had increased, in ninety-two it had declined and in eighteen it had remained about stationary.

Rate in South High.

Eight cities, all in the South, showed a record of more than 40 for each 100,000 of population, with Memphis, Tenn., leading with a record of 54.2.

"The victims in most cases were Negroes," Dr. Hoffman said of the record in those cities. "As has been the case for some years past, Memphis heads the list with its rate of 54.2, which is over five times the average rate for all the cities represented in the preceding tabulation."

The Memphis rate, the statistician pointed out, was probably increased by the admission to Memphis hospitals of outside homicide patients. Lexington, Ky., with 53.6, held second place, with Jacksonville, Fla., a close third with 52.2. In the list between 40 and 45 per 100,000 came Little Rock, Montgomery, Charleston, S. C.; Savannah and Birmingham.

In contrast to this record, Dr. Hoffman found twenty-one cities

without a single homicide in 1932. He listed as notable the record made by Boston with a population of nearly 800,000 inhabitants, in which the rate declined in one year from 3.6 to 2.5 per 100,000.

"Murder more than ever is becoming an ingenious art, if not a trade, in this country," Dr. Hoffman wrote.

"Human life was never as cheap and insecure in the United States as it is at the present time, and murder is decidedly more common in this country than in any other country which makes a claim of being civilized."

Cites Murder of Cermak.

The death of Mayor Cermak and the narrow escape of President Roosevelt, Dr. Hoffman said, served to emphasize dramatically the bitter truth that the means of murder, chiefly concealable weapons, can be obtained by almost any one without much hindrance. In contrast to the record in the United States he pointed out that the rate for 1931 in England and Wales per 100,000 population was 0.5. In this connection he stressed the fact that of the seventy-six deaths of males by homicide in England and Wales in 1931 only six were caused by firearms, or 7.9 per cent as against 66 per cent for the same period in the United States.

Quoting editorial comment on the ease with which firearms can be purchased in this country, he concluded: "All of which is sound common sense, but apparently of small effect on the public mind more concerned with the sale and possession of firearms than with the drastic elimination of the most convenient means of murder and suicide in the American nation."

Comparative Records Listed.

Following is the comparative record for murder in 180 American cities in 1931 and 1932:

	1931— Rate Per 100,000	1932— Rate Per 100,000
Akron, Ohio.....	26 10.0	26 9.8
Albany, N. Y.....	4 4.6	4 3.1
Allentown, Pa.....	2 2.1	1 1.0
Altoona, Pa.....	3 3.5	0 ..
Atlanta, Ga.....	144 49.5	122 39.7
Atlantic City, N. J.	12 17.6	3 4.3
Auburn, N. Y.....	0 ..	0 ..
Augusta, Ga.....	16 26.1	23 37.1
Austin, Texas.....	3 5.4	9 16.0
Baltimore, Md.....	88 10.8	82 10.0
Bayonne, N. J.....	0 ..	9 9.8
Berkeley, Cal.....	0 ..	2 2.3
Bethlehem, Pa.....	1 1.7	0 ..
Birmingham, Ala.	2 2.6	2 2.5
Birmingham, Ala.	148 54.9	113 40.8
Boston, Mass.....	28 3.6	20 2.5
Bridgeport, Conn.	3 2.0	2 1.4
Brockton, Mass.....	3 4.7	1 1.6
Buffalo, N. Y.....	20 3.4	20 3.4
Cambridge, Mass.	2 1.8	3 2.6
Camden, N. J.....	22 18.5	21 17.6
Canton, Ohio.....	7 6.5	10 9.2
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	3 5.2	1 1.7
Charleston, S. C....	8 13.0	27 43.5
Chelsea, Mass.....	2 3.9	0 ..
Chicago, Ill.....	489 14.1	452 12.8
Cicero, Ill.....	2 2.9	1 1.4
Cincinnati, Ohio...	74 16.2	75 16.2
Cleveland, Ohio...	121 13.3	125 13.5
Columbus, Ohio...	29 9.8	31 10.3
Concord, N. H.....	0 ..	0 ..
Covington, Ky.....	8 12.1	8 11.9
Dallas, Texas.....	66 24.2	81 29.7
Davenport, Iowa...	0 ..	3 4.9
Dayton, Ohio.....	19 9.2	18 8.5
Denver, Col.....	18 6.2	30 10.2
Des Moines, Iowa...	12 8.3	7 4.8
Detroit, Mich.....	177 10.8	162 9.6
Duluth, Minn.....	4 3.9	2 2.0
East Orange, N. J..	0 ..	2 2.8
East St. Louis, Ill.	15 19.9	21 27.6
Elizabeth, N. J.....	3 2.6	5 4.2
El Paso, Texas.....	20 19.0	16 14.8
Erie, Pa.....	6 5.1	5 4.1
Evansville, Ind....	6 5.8	8 7.6
Fall River, Mass...	2 1.7	1 0.9
Fitchburg, Mass...	0 ..	2 4.9
Flint, Mich.....	7 4.3	6 3.5
Fort Wayne, Ind....	7 5.9	8 6.6
Fort Worth, Texas.	42 24.7	47 26.7
Fresno, Cal.....	5 9.4	10 18.4
Galveston, Texas...	16 29.6	25 22.7
Gary, Ind.....	32 30.2	2 8.2
Gloucester, Mass...	1 4.1	0 ..
G'd Rapids, Mich...	3 1.7	9 15.2
Greensboro, N. C..	9 15.6	5 9.5
Hamilton, Ohio...	8 15.3	3 5.2
Hamtramck, Mich...	6 10.5	3 3.7
Harrisburg, Pa....	3 3.7	5 2.9
Hartford, Conn....	5 3.0	2 4.2
Haverhill, Mass...	2 4.2	1 1.9
Higlyd. Park, Mich.	1 1.9	3 5.0
Hoboken, N. J.....	3 5.0	0 ..
Holyoke, Mass.....	0 ..	13 8.7
Honolulu, Hawaii...	14 9.7	86 26.4
Houston, Texas...	82 26.4	41 10.9
Indianapolis, Ind...	34 9.2	1 1.8
Jackson, Mich....	3 5.4	72 52.2
Jacksonville, Fla...	65 48.5	9 2.8
Jersey City, N. J..	4 1.3	6 6.0
Johnstown, Pa....	1 1.5	1 1.8
Kalamazoo, Mich...	2 3.6	25 19.8
Kansas City, Kan...	14 11.3	85 20.4
Kansas City, Mo...	96 23.5	1 1.9
Kenosha, Wis.....	1 1.9	27 24.1
Knoxville, Tenn...	21 19.2	3 4.1
Lakewood, Ohio...	3 4.1	1 1.6
Lancaster, Pa....	5 8.2	1 1.2
Lansing, Mich....	0 ..	1 1.1
Lawrence, Mass...	2 2.3	25 53.6
Lexington, Ky.....	17 36.8	3 3.7
Lincoln, Neb.....	0 ..	38 44.8
Little Rock, Ark...	37 40.4	13 8.1
Long Beach, Cal...	4 2.6	116 8.4
Los Angeles, Cal...	92 7.0	62 19.2
Louisville, Ky.....	53 16.7	0 ..
Lowell, Mass.....	3 3.0	1 1.0
Lynn, Mass.....	0 ..	4 7.1
McKeesport, Pa....	11 19.8	18 33.3
Madison, Wis.....	24 44.5	0 ..
Manchester, N. H..	0 3.3	1 1.3
Massillon, Ohio...	2 7.3	0 ..
Medford, Mass....	0 ..	0 ..
Memphis, Tenn....	138 52.2	148 54.2
Miami, Fla.....	40 33.2	46 35.9
Milwaukee, Wis...	21 3.5	18 3.0
Minneapolis, Minn.	28 5.9	21 4.4
Mobile, Ala.....	24 34.7	25 35.8
Montgomery, Ala...	29 42.8	30 43.6
Mt. Vernon, N. Y.	2 3.1	6 9.3
Nashville, Tenn...	58 36.7	43 26.6
Newark, N. J.....	47 10.5	39 8.7
New Bedford, Mass	0 ..	0 ..
New Britain, Conn.	1 1.4	1 1.4
Newburgh, N. Y...	1 3.2	1 3.2
New Haven, Conn...	5 3.1	7 4.3
New Orleans, La...	123 26.3	100 21.1
New Rochelle, N. Y.	1 1.8	3 5.3
Newton, Mass.....	2 3.0	2 2.9
Newport, R. I.....	0 ..	0 ..
New York City.....	586 8.3	580 8.0
Niagara Falls, N.Y.	6 7.6	4 4.9
Norfolk, Va.....	22 16.9	23 17.5
Oakland, Cal.....	16 5.5	17 5.7
Oak Park, Ill.....	5 7.5	4 5.8
Okla. City, Okla...	38 19.3	23 11.2
Omaha, Neb.....	24 11.1	26 11.9
Orange, N. J.....	0 ..	0 ..
Pasadena, Cal....	4 5.0	1 1.2
Passaic, N. J.....	3 4.8	1 1.6
Paterson, N. J.....	3 2.2	7 5.0
Peoria, Ill.....	6 5.5	7 6.3
Petersburg, Va....	8 27.7	10 34.4
Philadelphia, Pa...	141 7.2	154 7.8
Pittsburgh, Pa....	58 8.5	73 10.6
Pittsfield, Mass...	1 2.0	0 ..
Pontiac, Mich.....	3 4.4	5 7.1
Portland, Me.....	2 2.8	2 2.8
Portland, Ore.....	14 4.6	18 5.8
Portsmouth, Va...	13 29.1	7 16.0
Providence, R. I...	3 1.2	3 1.2
Pueblo, Col.....	9 17.7	8 15.5
Quincy, Ill.....	1 2.5	1 2.5
Quincy, Mass.....	0 ..	1 1.3
Racine, Wis.....	4 5.8	3 4.4
Reading, Pa.....	1 2.7	0 ..
Richmond, Va.....	28 15.2	36 19.4
Rochester, N. Y...	14 4.2	12 3.6
Rockford, Ill.....	2 2.3	3 3.3
Roanoke, Va.....	12 16.8	12 16.4
Sacramento, Cal...	8 8.2	11 11.0
St. Louis, Mo....	131 15.8	119 14.3
St. Paul, Minn...	8 2.9	10 3.6
Salem, Mass.....	2 4.6	0 ..
Salt Lake City, Utah	15 10.5	7 4.8
San Antonio, Texas	56 23.3	42 17.0
San Diego, Cal....	10 6.4	10 6.1
San Fran., Cal....	52 8.0	46 6.9
San Jose, Cal.....	1 1.7	5 8.1
Savannah, Ga....	26 30.5	36 42.2
Schenectady, N. Y.	8 8.3	0 ..
Scranton, Pa.....	2 1.4	6 4.1
Seattle, Wash....	18 4.8	24 6.4
Sioux City, Iowa...	9 11.2	8 9.9
Somerville, Mass...	3 2.9	0 ..
Spokane, Wash....	4 3.4	15 12.7
Springfield, Ill...	12 16.4	8 10.7
Springfield, Mass...	2 1.3	1 0.6
Springfield, Ohio...	5 7.2	5 7.1
Syracuse, N. Y....	10 4.7	4 1.8
Tacoma, Wash....	4 3.7	8 7.3
Tampa, Fla.....	24 22.4	25 22.4
Terre Haute, Ind...	5 8.0	8 12.9
Toledo, Ohio.....	51 17.2	24 8.0
Topeka, Kan.....	5 7.6	7 10.4
Trenton, N. J.....	12 9.7	17 13.7
Troy, N. Y.....	3 4.1	2 2.7
Union City, N. J...	1 1.6	1 1.5
Waco, Texas.....	9 16.5	9 16.3
Washington, D. C.	77 15.6	110 22.1
Waterbury, Conn...	9 8.9	4 3.9
Wheeling, W. Va...	7 11.2	4 6.4
Wilkes-Barre, Pa...	2 2.3	4 4.5
Williamsport, Pa...	0 ..	1 2.1
Wilmington, Del...	15 14.1	8 7.8
Winston-Salem, N.C.	13 16.4	19 23.0
Worcester, Mass...	4 2.0	4 2.0
Yonkers, N. Y.....	7 5.0	6 4.2
Youngstown, Ohio...	23 13.2	20 11.2
Total.....	4,554 10.7	4,533 10.5

MURDER IN AMERICA

The virtuous United States still leads

the civilized nations in homicide rates.

Within the last 32 years the murder

record has nearly doubled in America!

This perhaps will not shock the liberty-

loving populace. It should not be shock-

ing. Americans have known of their weak-

ness for taking human life for some num-

ber of years and annually they read the

long murder lists, offer excuses or become

mildly alarmed for a few weeks only to

resume wholesale human slaughter in

keeping with the record of the following

year.

Figures show that the homicide rate last

year was no worse than that of the year

before. But it showed no improvement.

In 1900, homicide records show, 5.01

persons per 1,000 were killed in the United

States.

In 1910 the homicide rate had grown

to 8.5 per 1,000.

In 1932 the record stood at 10.8 per

1,000!

Southern cities still show the most

alarming homicide rates. Memphis stood

highest of any city in the country in 1932

with a rate of 54.2. Lexington, Ky., fol-

lowed as a close second and Jacksonville,

Fla., took third place.

Just how cheap life is held in America

as compared with other countries may be

illustrated by glancing at murder rates in England and Wales. The 1931 record in the islands showed a rate of 0.4 for males and 0.5 for females.

Dr. Frederick Hoffman, widely-known statistician, writing in The Spectator says: "Human life was never as cheap and insecure in the United States as it is at the present time and murder is decidedly more common in this country than in any other country of the world which makes a claim of being civilized. It is also a lamentable truth that crime and punishment in this country often lie far apart, leaving no other conclusion than that our crime-detecting agencies are inefficient, helpless or corrupt to a degree that should startle an apathetic public which has become habituated to look upon even the most ghastly murder as a matter of course."

One looking about for something on which to lay the blame for the cheapness of human life in this country can find any number of villains.

Climate, institutions, tradition, racial heritage, laws and lack of laws are sometimes rightfully blamed for high murder rates in different sections of the country.

But whatever excuses are offered it still remains that we, the people, just do not value human life enough to do anything about bringing a stop to killings.

ONCE MORE OUR HOMICIDE RECORD

It is enough to bring the blush of shame to realize that the American people are the supreme man-killers of all the world, civilized, semi-civilized or savage. The reign of crime has nothing to do with our form of government or our social system, because in other democratic countries a murder is an epochal event, while in this country it is a casual instance.—Macon Telegraph.

This is The Telegraph's comment on the homicide report of Dr. Frederick Hoffman in The Spectator, an insurance journal.

Dr. Hoffman remarks sadly that "murder MORE THAN EVER is becoming an ingenious art, if not a trade, in this country."

The statistician's survey covers 180 cities throughout the country, in which a homicide rate of 10.8 per 100,000 population is indicated.

Dr. Hoffman's figures for the years from 1927 to 1931, inclusive, show that there were 51,206 homicides in the United States in that five-year period. The record for 1932 for the nation as a whole are not yet concluded.

As against the rate of 10.8 per 100,000 in this country the rate is 0.5 per 100,000 of population for England and Wales in 1931.

New York City led the country in the number of homicides in 1931 and 1932 with 586 in the former year and 580 in the latter. The rate itself in New York was below the average for the country, being 8.3 and 8.0 for the two years, respectively. In Chicago the rate for the two years was 12.8 and 14.1. Memphis led the cities reported by Dr. Hoffman with a rate of 54.2 last year, based on 148 homicides. In Atlanta the rate was 39.7.

The Telegraph continues by saying:

While Dr. Hoffman does not give the figures, it is our recollection that the number of murders in the metropolitan district of London last year was five, of which only one went unsolved and none of the perpetrators of the crime in other cases went unpunished.

What possible excuse can there be for approximately 40 murders out of every 100,000 population in the capital city of the state of Georgia?

Dr. Hoffman attributes the high homicide rate in this country generally to the ease with which deadly weapons can be bought and cites the case of Zangara's attempt upon Mr. Roosevelt at Miami. This is undoubtedly a partial explanation. The ease with which murderers escape punishment, or even detection, in this country constitutes a further explanation.

It is not possible to make any cocksure solution for this deplorable contempt for human life, but we do lay down the inescapable proposition that if we regenerated our own hearts and minds and eliminated the frightful cost of crime in this country we could afford to laugh at the national debt and permit the unemployed to fare sumptuously every day.

Would a no-pistol law be any more effective in putting down homicide than our celebrated no-liquor law?

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN

MAR 31 1933

OUR MURDER RECORD

A compilation of murders committed in the United States during the year 1932 shows Baltimore with slightly less than the average rate of the cities of the country as a whole—10.8 per 100,000 of population. There were 82 homicides credited to Baltimore in the year, six less than in the preceding year. The rate ranges from 54.6 per 100,000 in Memphis to no murders at all in twenty smaller cities.

About the best to be said for Baltimore is that it shows up remarkably well in comparison with cities of the South with their large

Negro population. On the average, more than three-fourths of murders here are committed by Negroes. But in comparison with Boston, with but twenty homicides, our record is lamentably bad; and all of the larger American cities, in comparison with England and Wales, present a murder toll that is shocking evidence of indifference to the taking of human life, our murder rate per 100,000 of population being more than twenty times as great.

That the carrying of deadly weapons is responsible for this country's showing is evidenced by the fact that only six deaths in England and Wales in 1931 were caused by firearms, while in the United States sixty-six per cent. of all homicides in the same year were committed with pistols and guns of one or another kind. It is indisputable that human life is held cheapest and is most insecure where the practice of going armed prevails most widely.

NEW YORK CITY TIMES

APRIL 4, 1933

THE HOMICIDE RECORD.

Reasons Adduced for the High Rates in the South.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

THE TIMES comments on the homicide record in different sections of the country will, I hope, prove valuable in provoking thought among the younger generation to whom we must look for improved conditions of every character.

May I call attention to what seems to me the fundamental cause for the high rates throughout many sections of our Southland? The conditions there, undoubtedly, relate to both the sparseness of population and the lack of educational facilities prior to the Civil War.

Even today the expenditures per capita are pathetically small compared with the amounts in the northern and western sections of the country. The strong traditions running through generations of pioneer families make progress slow in inducing voters to increase taxes for schools. The general poverty which still persists is also a deciding factor. In addition to this the great population of Negroes with out voting power makes a demand upon the limited purse quite beyond the productive power, which continues limited by reason of the lack of knowledge and understanding.

There is, in the opinion of many, a legitimate basis for appeal to the Federal Treasury for a fuller measure of assistance in the support of schools for Negroes, which average, perhaps, scarcely two-thirds of the school period that those for whites afford and which, further, have less

efficiently trained teachers; where as the greater need for skillful teachers is on the part of the less fortunate and privileged children of Negro parents who have maintained themselves against most difficult economic odds.

The records in the communities of Negroes, such as Mound Bayou, Mississippi and Columbia Heights near Winston Salem, North Carolina, show a very low criminal record, demonstrating, what is found by all careful observers, that skilled teachers are of most value to the country in communities where the children have least of helpful influence from environment. It is, also, true that communities where Negro school facilities are most limited are those in which also the white level of literacy and general intelligence is at a low point and the sanctity of life is held in little regard.

GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.
Saratoga Springs, N. Y., March 31, 1933.

NEW YORK TIMES

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GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.
Saratoga Springs, N. Y., March 31, 1933.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

TIMES

AMERICA'S HOMICIDE PROBLEM.

Organizations and drives exist for the solution of numerous problems, but if there is any organized effort to solve America's homicide problem it is not letting its left hand know what its right hand is doing. And yet, the country's homicide record clearly indicates that prevention of the loss of human life through violence constitutes one of its most serious social problems.

In its current "Statistical Bulletin," the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company points out that during the years 1929 to 1931 the average annual homicide rate among white people for the country as a whole was 5.5 per 100,000. Among Negroes the rate for the country as a whole was 38.4 per 100,000 of the colored population. One of the significant things about the homicide rate is that it

varies so greatly for different parts of the country, with respect to both white people and Negroes. During the indicated period, for instance, Nevada's annual rate for white persons was 16.5 per 100,000, while in the matter of Negro homicides Missouri led with the amazing annual rate of 72.2 per 100,000.

In striking contrast to these rates are those of Maine and Vermont for white people, each with a rate of 1.3, and those of New Hampshire and Vermont for Negroes, among whom no homicides were recorded during the three-year period. In the Metropolitan bulletin's article States are classed in six groups, according to homicide rates. Tennessee is in next to the highest with reference to homicides among white people and in the highest group relating to the homicide rate among Negroes.

There must be some fundamental reason or reasons why the United States' homicide rate among white persons is nearly three times as high as that of Canada and from ten to eleven times as high as that of England. There must also be some fundamental reason or reasons for this country's tremendous homicide rate among Negroes.

Crime - 1933

MACON, GA.
TELEGRAPH

JAN 17 1933

"Loitering in a Dive"

Recorder Hatcher checked from yesterday to Friday the cases of 103 Negroes who were arrested in a raid on a dance hall Saturday night and charged with "loitering in a dive", under the ordinance passed several months ago by City Council. The Telegraph hopes that between now and Friday the recorder will arrive at the conclusion that justice dictates that the cases against all shall be dismissed and that if anybody have forfeited collateral Friday morning their fines shall also be remitted.

The situation, according to the police, is that they had notified "Son" Wright, a Negro dance promoter, that his next dance would be raided. He held another and the police raided it. They found no weapons on any of the Negroes and they found no whisky, although there was evidence, according to the police, that it had been drunk there. It was remarkable, we think, that no weapons at all were found on 103 persons assembled in a public dance hall and it was nothing short of miraculous that no whisky was found. It would be impossible at nine out of ten dances in town to make a sudden raid and not find whisky. The Negroes were holding the tenth.

In short, the case is one in which more than a hundred Negroes had paid a dime each to amuse themselves. The costumes, the reporter who covered the raid said, ranged from fine clothes to overalls. It is reasonable to presume that those who were in overalls and in the poorer clothes were put to it to get a dime to go to a dance. The price itself indicates that Wright, the promoter, realized that his people had no spare money to spend on amusements. It is probably the only amusement most of the Negroes have. It is certainly harmless amusement in comparison with drinking bouts and skin games and brawls. The people there get little out of life anyway. Indeed, they ask little. The depression has made that little less. The Negro who has not been crowded out of his job now is fortunate. Those who still have jobs have greatly reduced incomes. The police ought not to envy them a few hours of joy and laughter and happi-

ness, even if they follow the example of their white friends and spike their good times with corn from our native hills. The police ought to be glad that the assembly is for such a peaceful, happy purpose.

In any event, there is no excuse for arresting 103 persons who were engaged in dancing and pretending to the legal fiction that they were loitering in a dive. If Wright was violating an ordinance or a law, he ought to be arrested; his 103 guests were innocent of his crime, if there was one. It is arbitrary and high handed to arrest all the dancers and assess collateral of \$5. That is more than nine-tenths of the defendants would make in a week. The city needs money, but it does not need it badly enough to reach down into the pockets of distressed people and take it away by invoking an ordinance that is repressive when improperly used.

Between the police use of such a repressive and oppressive measure and pure justice there stand Recorder Hatcher and Mayor Toole. The Telegraph hopes that the recorder and the mayor will not permit the police action to represent the sentiment of the people of city. The Telegraph hopes also that the police department will be instructed to invoke "dive" ordinance only in cases that are fide.

Georgia

Crawford Case Reveals Chain Gang Horrors

Workers Must Build Huge Mass Defense for Herndon! Smash Chain Gang System!

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 24.—The murderous nature of the 18 to 20 year chain gang sentence imposed by the courts of Georgia on Angelo Herndon, 19-year old Negro organizer of the unemployed, was vividly brought out here during the fight conducted by the International Labor Defense against the attempt of the State of Georgia to extradite Jesse Crawford, a 20-year old Negro youth who had escaped from the Georgia chain gangs.

Story of Inhuman Torture
The Negro and white workers who crowded the courtroom during the hearing on the extradition demand heard in simple words, from the lips of this lad, a terrible story of brutal and inhuman tortures inflicted on the helpless victims of the chain gang bosses. And to back up his story, young Crawford rolled up his trousers and showed the painful scars left by the steel cuffs which had been riveted around his ankles. Although he had been off the chain gang for nine months, the scars were still deep and ugly.

Under the questioning of the I.L.D. attorney Maurice Sugar, Crawford told how he was arrested at the age of 17, and sentenced to one to three years on the Fulton County chain gang, the same county in which Angelo Herndon has just been sentenced to a living death for the "crime" of organizing white and Negro workers together to fight against starvation and the brutal national oppression of the Negroes.

The "Trace Chain"

How a two-inch chain had been riveted around his neck, from which dropped a heavy chain, 10 inches long and weighing 9 or 10 pounds, was vividly described by Crawford. This is called a "trace chain." It is the same kind of chain used on work animals. At night it is attached to

another chain at the foot of the cot where the prisoner sleeps. In addition, there were the chains around his ankles.

The mass defense, organized and lead by the I.L.D., secured the release of Crawford, forcing the governor of Michigan to refuse the request of Georgia for his extradition. The white and Negro workers must now mobilize their forces on a far broader scale to force the chain gang state of Georgia to free Angelo Herndon.

Demand the abolition of the chain gang! Demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Angelo Herndon! Demand a stop to the attempts of the Georgia

bosses to railroad the Atlanta Six to similar chain gang sentences or the electric chair. The trial of these six organizers—two colored men, two white women and two white men—is now being prepared by the Georgia bosses. Demand their unconditional freedom! Demand the right of free speech and assembly for the white and Negro toilers of Georgia! Defend the right of the workers political party, the Communist Party, to legal existence!

Young Boys In Chains

GREENVILLE, S. C., Jan. 24.—Admission that he saw many young boys in shackles in the chain gang camps of this State is made by Gen. Glassford, who while head of the Washington police conspired with the Hoover Hunger Government for the gang, the same county in which Angelo Herndon has just been sentenced to a living death for the "crime" of organizing white and Negro workers together to fight against starvation and the brutal national oppression of the Negroes.

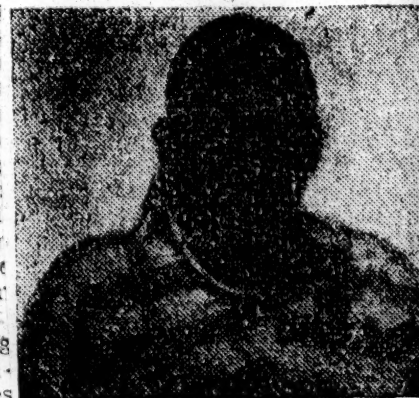
Visiting a group of chain gang prisoners between Greer and Greenville, he found "many young faces in the group. Some of them were guilty of nothing but their hopeless efforts to find a job." They had been sentenced to the chain gang on a charge of "vagrancy"!

Reactionary Paints Rosy Picture

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 24.—From this adopted state of president-elect Roosevelt, Chase S. Osborn, former governor of Michigan, today made a reactionary defense of the murderous Georgia chain gangs. His defense is contained in a letter to Gov. William A. Comstock, present governor of Michigan, and is in the nature of a protest against the release of 20-year old Jesse Crawford, Negro youth, whom the state of Georgia tried to extradite from Michigan.

Osborn reports having visited the chain gangs frequently to hold religious services. He paints a rosy

"Trace Chain"



It was this sort of chain that was riveted around the neck of 17-year old Crawford on a Georgia chain gang.

picture of the "benefits" of the chain gangs and the "happiness" of the victims of this specially horrible form of capitalist reaction. According to Osborn, the victims so greatly enjoy the torture and cruelties of the chain gang that they would "commit crimes so as to return to the chain gang, where life for them has been more comfortable than so-called freedom." From any angle considered, this is an interesting commentary on capitalist civilization.

I Am Saved From the Chain Gang

Daily Worker 2-33 New York

(This is Jesse Crawford's own story of how the International Labor Defense, through mass pressure and legal defense, saved him from being extradited from Lansing, Mich., to serve out a sentence on the Georgia chain gang. In simple, dramatic language, Crawford tells the story of his life—the life story of thousands of young Negro workers, and many young white workers. The chain gang doom that hangs over these young workers throughout the black belt of the South is constant.)

It is much the same chain gangs as Crawford here describes, that Angelo Herndon, 19-year-old Negro organizer of the unemployed, has been sentenced to serve eighteen to twenty years for his work of organization against starvation.)

By JESSE CRAWFORD

I was born in Atlanta, Georgia, Sept. 16, 1913. My father died in 1915 when I was two years old. My mother became an invalid since 1921. My family consisted of five, my mother, three sisters and myself. I started to work when I was eleven years old, while I was going to school, delivering groceries. In order to support my family, I was compelled to quit school when I reached the sixth grade, and got a job.



Jesse Crawford

I got two jobs, one at Jacob's Pharmacy as delivery boy, and the other at the post office as special delivery boy. Both jobs brought me \$16 a week. I found it very hard to always work on two jobs. My relatives in Detroit wrote and informed me that everything there was bright, and if I came there I would make good. I quit the drug store and post office job in Atlanta and came to Detroit in December, 1928, hoping to get a better job, so I would be able to better support my family.

ESCAPE

The drug store boss for whom I held for the Georgia chain gang worked got very indignant when I signed the papers to go back to quit and framed me up on a charge of stealing his money. As a result, I was arrested in Detroit before I found my relatives. I was 15 years old. I was taken to the Boys' Detention Home, where they kept me for two weeks and transferred me to police headquarters and held me for extradition to Georgia. Detective Young of Atlanta, Georgia, came to take me back.

In the train, on our way to Georgia through Ohio, Detective Young kept telling me of the horrors and tortures awaiting me in Georgia. Knowing that this was true, I made up my mind to escape or die trying to escape, rather than go back. I asked permission to go in the toilet. He gave me permission, and I went in and jumped out through the window of the toilet, handcuffed, while the train was moving pretty fast. I ran and hid until it was dark. I broke the chains between the cuffs by the use of a wrench pushed the cuffs up my sleeves and beat it to Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania police arrested me on the street, on suspicion found the cuffs up my sleeves, held me in the detention home until my uncle, who lives there, came and got me out. I worked in Pennsylvania until November, 1929, when I left and went to Atlanta, Georgia. I stayed there until January, 1931, when I left and went to Fayetteville, Georgia. I stayed there with my aunt and worked on the farm.

I bought a 26-model Ford coupe, for which I was arrested, after having the car six months. I was charged with theft of the car. The man from whom I bought this car left town. Although I had a receipt and three witnesses to prove that I bought the car, they convicted me of theft and sentenced me to 12 months on the Georgia chain gang. I was on the chain gang two months when one day one of the officers left to get some milk, and I left right after him, carrying a chisel and hammer, with which I cut the chains off my legs and escaped.

I went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where

I was arrested on suspicion and

worked got very indignant when I signed the papers to go back to quit and framed me up on a charge of stealing his money. As a result, I was arrested in Detroit before I found my relatives. I was 15 years old. I was taken to the Boys' Detention Home, where they kept me for two weeks and transferred me to police headquarters and held me for extradition to Georgia. Detective Young of Atlanta, Georgia, came to take me back. In the train, on our way to Georgia through Ohio, Detective Young kept telling me of the horrors and tortures awaiting me in Georgia. Knowing that this was true, I made up my mind to escape or die trying to escape, rather than go back. I asked permission to go in the toilet. He gave me permission, and I went in and jumped out through the window of the toilet, handcuffed, while the train was moving pretty fast. I ran and hid until it was dark. I broke the chains between the cuffs by the use of a wrench pushed the cuffs up my sleeves and beat it to Pennsylvania.

Finally they took me out and made me stand on the running board of the car, because I was wet, while one of them held me by the handcuffs and took me to the jail in Fayetteville. All this happened on a cold December day, Dec. 4, 1931. As a result of this treatment I was sick in bed in jail for four days. They refused to give me any medicine.

As soon as I could walk around, I started looking around for a place to escape. I discovered that the only way of escaping was by digging a hole through the concrete and steel floor. So I went to work. There were two of us in this jail. I made a hole through the floor after several days' and nights' work, and found that I could not get through with my clothes on, so I took off my clothes, leaving my underwear on, asking the other boy to give them to me after I got through the hole. The sheriff, his wife and nephew, who lived on the floor beneath us, heard me when I reached the floor and tried to stop me, but they failed.

I had no time to get my clothes from my boy friend. I ran through woods and ploughed fields about three miles to my cousin's house, where I asked for clothing. While he was trying to find some clothes, the sheriff ran in, so I ran out through the back door and kept going through woods and fields for about ten miles, when I got clothes and went to Atlanta, Georgia.

In Atlanta, on the night of Jan. 28, 1932, the police woke me and two other boys, arrested us and charged us with theft of money. After the two other boys had confessed to stealing this money, they asked them what they did with it. They replied that they had paid me back some money I loaned them

while I was working. I received a sentence of from three to five years, sending me back to the same chain gang I had left.

ON THE CHAIN GANG

One of the most dreaded instruments of the most brutal torture which is used on the chain gang to punish prisoners is the stock. I was put in the stock six times. One day while working in the quarry a heavy rock fell on my shoulder. As a result I was very sick that night, and being unable to get out of bed to go to work the following morning on account of a fractured shoulder, I was put in the stock. When you are let out you cannot stand up, but the guard will kick you, urging you to get up. I was put in the stock several times because I answered the guard's questions. Prisoners are put in the stock for little or nothing. I don't think there is any human as cruel as these guards.

The only way to escape some of this brutal treatment is to spy on other prisoners, but, if you don't, these guards will curse and call you everything. They will always frame you up and have you put in the stock or sweat box or work you at top speed each day and club you on the head with a pick handle. Several prisoners were found unconscious when taken out of the stock. Often prisoners are overcome by the heat and fall out on the ground, or get cramps in the stomach, caused by eating the rotten meals which are given to them. They are forced to work even in these conditions. The prison doctor will always give you pills, no matter what is wrong with you. The clothes we wear are always scanty and very dirty. Those that work in the quarry are always wet, summer and winter. Our beds are always lousy and with bugs in abundance.

In the building, where a row of toilets run from one end to another, flies, mosquitoes and the stench keeps us awake all night. The only drinking water available is in the buckets which hang over every toilet, around which flies swarm. The shower baths are located in a small corner of the room, under which about 100 men are pushing and shoving, trying to get wet. They are allowed only five

minutes to do this, while the guard curses and abuses us.

Those who are double-shackled have to sleep in their pants; if they did not they would not be able to get to their feet on time the next morning. In summer they were wet with sweat, but we had to put them on the next morning. It was the same thing for breakfast every day, sarghum-molasses, thick sliced fried bacon half done, hot stuff (chicory coffee) and hard corn bread two days' old. If we complained we would be punished. Sometimes we were given biscuit bread, which when broken open had flies and cockroaches. We got black-eye pea soup for dinner, which had stones, dirt and worms floating on top of the soup, fat bacon and the same hard corn bread. For supper we had the same thing. Every evening there was some one being put in the stock because he complained about the meals.

I worked in the stone quarry with a 40-pound hammer, breaking rock 12 and 14 hours a day in summer. A half-inch steel cuff was put around my neck. A full-length trace chain, nine feet long, was attached to this collar. At work, I wrapped this chain around my waist and tied it with a string. I had a cuff on each leg with fourteen links of chain running from one leg to another. A chain which is called the upright chain runs from the middle of the chain between my legs up to my belt. I tied this chain to my belt with a string. Before I went to bed I untied this chain from around my waist and let it hang down.

The building chain is a chain which runs from one end of the building to the other and runs through the rings of the chains of all prisoners. On the

is a large pen of bloodhound dogs, for the purpose of running down escaped prisoners.

THE N. A. A. C. P.

I was on the chain gang two months before I succeeded in making my escape. I escaped by boring holes through the wooden floor with an auger and cutting the chain off my legs with a hack saw. I went from there to Atlanta, where I took off the prison clothes. From there I made my way to Detroit. I was arrested on suspicion in River Rouge, taken to police headquarters and held for extradition to the Georgia chain gang.

While I was in jail, lawyer Harold E. Bledsoe came to me and said he was from the N.A.A.C.P. He asked me if I was willing to go back to Georgia. I said no, and he asked me if I had money to fight the extradition. I told

Crime - 1933

him I didn't have money. Then he said he would take care of the case and he believed he could keep me from going back. He talked to me very nicely until the three Georgia officers came. They asked me who my lawyer was, and I told them Bledsoe, and they said they would talk to him. The same evening he came back and said he had talked to the officers. His attitude toward me was changed, and he said he didn't think he could do anything for me and it would be best for me to go back and serve my sentence. I told him I didn't think I could live through it again if I went back, but he still insisted it would be best for me to go back. He said: "We don't need any boys like you in our town. It will be better for you to go back and complete your sentence."

THE I. L. D.

That same night Lawyer William Banks came to me and told me he was representing the International Labor Defense. I explained my case to him, and told him about Lawyer Bledsoe. He said he would take up my case and that the I.L.D. would fight to keep me from going back to the chain gang. Since I was disappointed by Bledsoe and the N.A.A.C.P. and Lawyer Banks and Lawyer Sugar explained to me that masses of workers would fight for my release, I was sure that only the I. L. D., backed by the workers, would win my release. I had more confidence in the I. L. D. because they did not ask me for money, and that was the first thing that Lawyer Bledsoe asked for. Bledsoe did not even have a habeas corpus writ out, although he knew that I was being held without a warrant. The first day Lawyer Banks talked to me he had a writ taken out to make them produce a warrant to give me my freedom. On the way back from court in answer to the writ, the officer who was taking me back was very angry. He thought that Bledsoe had taken out the writ, and he said Bledsoe would never get another favor from him because he promised one thing and did another. I didn't tell him that Banks got the writ.

The International Labor Defense got busy and organized protest meetings and got out leaflets. They had telegrams and letters sent to Governor Comstock demanding my release. A number of people went up to Lansing in my behalf and asked for my release.

The officers wanted to know why so many white people were interested in my case. I know now that the I.L.D. organized these Negro and white workers for my defense. The only way to break up the horrible tortures to the Negroes is by organizing together the white and colored people.

Everyone who is not a member of the International Labor Defense ought to join, because it is the only organization that fights to defend the workers.

Abolishment of Chain Gang System Urged in Talk by Walter Hendrix

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.

TIMES

Abolishment of the chain gang system in Georgia, and the handling of convicts in a state penal institution manned by trained criminologists, was favored Wednesday by Walter C. Hendrix, county commissioner, in a talk before the Atlanta Real Estate Board at its luncheon at the Ansley hotel.

Referring to the Burns escape, his motion picture, and the resulting notoriety, culminating in the refusal of the New Jersey governor to extradite Burns, Mr. Hendrix said that the action of this official, and of one other who had acted similarly, was due to the pressure of public opinion, not to the personal feeling of the official.

"The chain gang system, however well managed, offers an opportunity for cruelty and abuse," Mr. Hendrix said. "Let a sub-warden down in the wiregrass region commit such an act, and the whole state is exposed to abuse and contempt. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link."

Referring to criticism of government officials, and of county officials in particular, Mr. Hendrix said that the expansion of the city and county put demands on the county out of all relation to its resources.

"There are two main causes of the county deficit," he said. "One is the extensive paving on the North Side of the county, which was offset by virtual creation, through paving, of three towns on the South Side—College Park, East Point and Hapeville."

The county also was faced with a declining income, he said, which was inadequate to meet growing demands of charity, extension of the police force, fire protection and other things.

GEORGIA CHAIN GANGS

Loyal Georgians resent most bitterly the charges and implications contained in the book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chain Gang," and the motion picture based on it. They say the book is a libel on Georgia justice and nowhere near the truth.

True or false, however, Georgia is getting wise to herself, and instead of contenting herself with a flat denial, is preparing to make a thorough investigation of that peculiar institution, the chain gang.

A member of the Georgia senate has introduced a resolution calling for a thorough investigation of the charges. His resolution is not based on the chain gang book, but on a book called "Georgia Nigger," which deals with alleged cruelties practiced upon negro members of chain gangs.

Florida's chain gang system came in for some severe criticism not long ago, as a result of revelations at the trial of a prison guard in connection with the death of a convict.

A chain gang is no picnic. In spite of stringent rules and regulations, abuses creep in. Georgia owes it to her self-respect to investigate conditions in her road camps. The people of the state have a right to know whether the recent hullabaloo over chain gang practices is based on fact or fiction.

COURT HOLDS CITY'S 'DIVE' LAW INVALID

Ordinance Is Unconstitutional,
Judge Brown Rules in Joe
Simmons Case

NEGRO RECEIVES RELEASE

Offenses Are Already Pro-
hibited by State Statutes,
Jurist Decides

The municipal "dive" ordinance under which hundreds have been arrested since its passage in city council last June was held unconstitutional Thursday by Judge Louis L. Brown.

The action brought about the release of Joe Simmons, Negro, convicted in recorder's court several days ago and sent to the stockade for 16 days when he defaulted in the payment of an \$8.25 fine.

Granting Simmons' petition for a writ of habeas corpus, Judge Brown held that the ordinance covered a series of offenses already prohibited by state law.

Hallie B. Bell, attorney for Simmons, filed the petition several days ago and argued the case Thursday before Judge Brown.

Though attorneys for the city filed an answer and a demurrer to the petition, they were not in court to contest the action.

Mr. Bell contended that a person arrested under the ordinance could not prepare his defense because he would be ignorant of the exact charge against him.

Prohibits Loitering

The ordinance, he said, prohibits loitering, drinking or possessing and selling whisky, and other offenses already against the state law.

It was under the "dive" ordinance that city officers two weeks ago raided a Negro dance hall and arrested more than 100 Negroes who had assembled there to dance.

All were given subpoenas to the recorder's court but, following a protest by citizens, the entire series of cases was dismissed.

Another attack on the constitutionality of the ordinance is pending in court in a petition for writ of certiorari filed by T. A. Jacobs, attorney, in behalf of a group of clients.

That case will be assigned during the February term of court and, since the attack is on the same grounds, it is expected the writ will be sustained.

Whether the city would appeal Judge Brown's decision could not be learned Thursday. E. W. Maynard, city attorney was out of the city. Police Chief Ben T. Watkins, who arrived here late Thursday night

State Penal System Disgrace, Says Park in Emory Address

Georgia's prison system was characterized as a "disgrace," and some other method of handling the penal problem should be undertaken at once. Representative Orville A. Park, of Macon, asserted in an address Thursday afternoon before the joint sessions of the Georgia Press Institute and the Emory University Institute of Citizenship.

"Our penal system," said Judge Park "is a disgrace, and while I am not interested in certain books recently published under the authorship of escaped criminals from the chain gang, one thing is certain—where there is so much smoke there is bound to be some fire."

The Bibb county legislator, speaking in the absence of Governor Eugene Talmadge, who was unable to attend Thursday afternoon's session, made his attack on the chain gang system of the state in a general criticism of the multiplicity of governmental departments in the 159 counties of the state.

"With so many counties," he continued, "it is a matter of public knowledge that the chain gangs cannot be properly managed. They should be taken away from the individual supervision of the counties."

The convicts of Georgia, Representative Park added, should be in strategically located camps and should work on county roads under state supervision.

From the chain gang system, the Bibb legislator took up the question of the educational system as it now operates in the state, terming it "miserable," and pointing out that in the 159 counties of the state there are a total of 1,641 school districts, each operating with a separate board of trustees.

The judiciary of Georgia was next to fall under the critical analysis of the speaker, who recommended its complete reorganization.

"But whenever we try to do something in the way of reorganizing the judiciary of the state, it is from the lawyers that we meet our greatest opposition," he charged. "The legal profession in the state of Georgia presents the only real obstacle we have ever experienced in our attempts to bring about an improvement in the judiciary of the state."

The speaker asserted that reduction of the prices of automobile license tags and the abolition of ad valorem taxes would greatly relieve the taxpayers, because, he explained, the cost of local governments—county and municipal—is too high, and first must be reduced.

"However," he added, "I don't think we will ever do it. The little office holders won't let us. No one in Georgia knows, or can know under the present arrangement, just what the county governments in Georgia do with all their money. We are eaten up with counties and are 'courted' to death by our judicial system."

Dependence of the American public on newspapers for medical information, the uses and abuses of propa-

ganda in swaying public opinion in the medical field, and other interesting facts concerning the relation of home life with the newspaper profession were other topics discussed at Thursday's joint sessions.

Charles S. Smith Speaks.

Two of the most interesting addresses of the day were delivered by Charles Stevenson Smith, of the Washington bureau of the Associated Press, who spoke in the forenoon on the development of the foreign news service, and Dr. Morris Fishbein, noted physician and editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, as well as of the nationally-known medical magazine, Hygeia.

Other speakers who were on the program of the six sessions held Thursday were Dr. Walter C. Jackson, dean of the school of public administration, University of North Carolina; Milton Fleetwood, editor of the Cartersville Herald; Professor John D. Allen, of Mercer University; Dr. Harvey W. Cox, president of Emory University; Attorney-General M. J. Yeomans, State Auditor Tom Wisdom.

In his speech, Mr. Smith traced the development of foreign news reporting from the days prior to 1865, when it came, he said, by word of mouth. Crews and passengers on vessels arriving from Europe were the best news sources, talking "freely with inquiring reporters," Mr. Smith related, "giving the latest gossip of London coffee houses and Paris cafes."

Cable Network Progress Told.

In 1865, he told his audience, the trans-Atlantic cable came into general effective use, although its maximum transmission capacity at that time was only about 15 letters a minute, as compared with today's net work of cables on which are transmitted 400 words a minute.

American readers, the Associated Press foreign news expert said, obtain their European news free of bias because it is written "by good Americans who make an earnest effort to keep their fellow countrymen accurately informed about European affairs."

"All the bureaus of the Associated Press at important capitals in Europe are headed by American-trained newspapermen with American citizenship. Most of the bureau staff are Americans as well. The news is freed as far as is humanly possible from foreign prejudice."

Dr. Fishbein asserted that a survey recently conducted shows that a great majority of people acquire their health information from the columns of their daily newspaper. "Health officers who are doing the most efficient work," he added, "have come to realize this fact. Their contact with the press of their cities is intimate, and the association has been for the good of all."

Action and reaction of the American public sentiment on the prohibition law was termed "pendulum thinking" by the speaker, who referred to the 18th amendment and Volstead act as the result of propaganda.

"Old Doctor Congress," he said, "has himself seen fit to attempt to regulate the practice of medicine by dictating to physicians the amount and the frequency of prescription of medicine containing alcohol with a view to regulating the habits of the American people. This legislation, hailed by well-nigh all the people as the salvation of all of us, is now in process of modification if not complete rejection."

"It is a beautiful example of what has been characterized as pendulum thinking, with public opinion at one time at one or the other extreme of the swing of the pendulum, and with truth lying probably at dead center when the pendulum is still. It is today no secret that prohibition and Volsteadism came upon us through the campaign begun many years ago by insertion into textbooks of examples and opinions indicating that alcohol is a deadly poison, that it invariably shortens life and promotes disease."

"Today a survey of the available scientific literature indicates the fact that the moderate use of alcohol never appreciably shortened the life of any normal human being."

"Public opinion make it difficult if not impossible for physicians in most of our states to use the alleviating powers of alcohol even to produce that state of well-being in elderly persons which physicians call euphoria. . . . The same type of propaganda today urges abolition of tobacco, and has had the unfortunate effect of causing the purveyors of tobacco to embark on one of the most terrific campaigns, urging excess in smoking, that has ever been seen in the field of promotion."

State Auditor Wisdom told the institute that better business methods are needed in government and that Georgia's 1,641 school districts should be abolished, while Attorney-General Yeomans asserted that public opinion must be aroused and concentrated in the correct channels if progress is to be made.

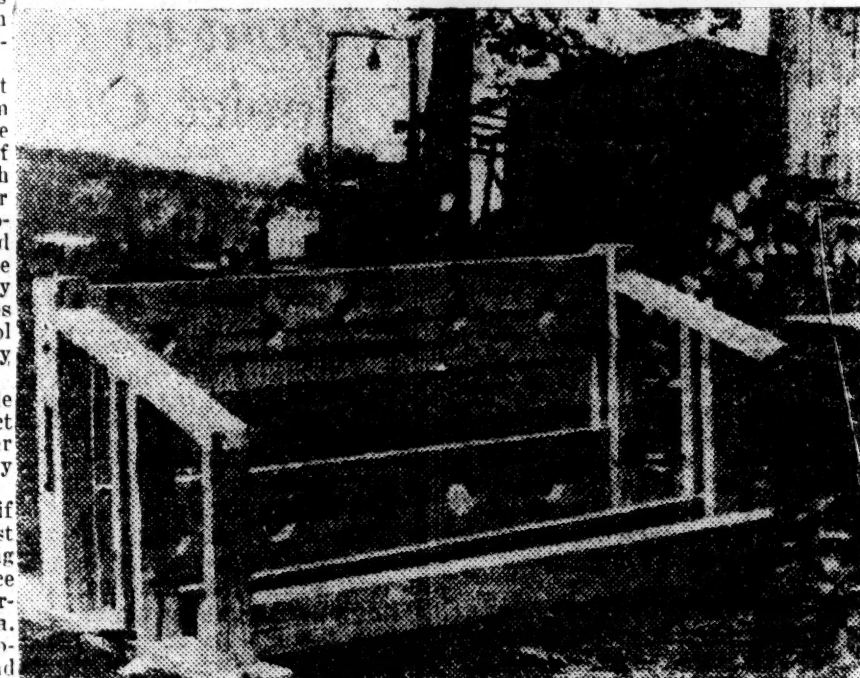
In his forenoon address Dean Jackson predicted that President-elect Franklin Roosevelt's method of consulting the ablest men in the country on government affairs probably would result in the best functioning of government in the history of the United States.

"The public has suffered much," said Dean Jackson, "at the hands of leaders who relied solely upon party advantage, self-interest, or prejudice, rather than on a statesmanlike grasp of the issues in question. The technique employed by Mr. Roosevelt, calling as it does for the participation in public affairs of trained economists, political scientists and sociologists, as well as enlisting the assistance of universities and research agencies, constitutes a genuine contribution to public leadership."

Under the sponsorship of the Georgia League of Women Voters a constitutional convention for Georgia will be enacted at the citizenship institute today and Saturday. Mrs. Wellington Stevenson, president of the state league, Thursday announced that representatives from many Georgia colleges would be represented at the convention. Among institutions to be represented are the Georgia State College for Women, Brenau College, Georgia School of Technology, Pied-

mont College, Emory University, and all high school students in Atlanta and vicinity are invited to be present as well as members of the legislature. Two sessions will be held—one at 9 o'clock this afternoon, and the other at 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Georgia Chain Gang Torture Stocks



The ruling class of Georgia has been trying to deny the stories of torture on their chain gangs printed in the Daily Worker in connection with the vicious 18 to 20-year sentence of Angelo Herndon. Here are the stocks used by the prison camp of Whitfield County near Dalton, Ga. Two men are placed in the stocks at once, sitting on a sharp-edged plank, with their wrists and ankles held in the stocks.

UNION CITY, N. J.

HUDSON DISPATCH

MAY 3 - 1933

The "Third Degree"

Vs. Chain Gang Methods

For a State that refused to return an escaped prisoner to the cruelties of Georgia's infamous chain gang punishment, the exposing of the "third degree" as carried on by the State Police in Salem has an acute embarrassment.

A Negro who refused to give up information when he "didn't know nothing" about something he didn't know about alleges that he was taken to the back room of an undertaker's establishment, placed in a coffin, the lid of which was clamped down until he became willing to talk.

Anybody who knows anything about the attitude of the average Negro on matters pertaining to death will realize that the coffin episode, if it took place, was much more effective in getting

"confessions" than it was in getting facts.

Not only is one Negro alleged to have gone through that gruesome and terribly distressing episode in the back room of an undertaking establishment, but other Negroes are alleged to have been beaten under the stress of "third degree" methods.

Governor Moore should not permit this Salem brutality, if such it be, to go by unnoticed. There should be no difference between brutality in Georgia and in New Jersey, and there should be no difference in brutality between white men and Negroes.

PARDON GRANTED**TO DR. MITCHELL**

Telegraph
Governor Talmadge Approves
Restoration of Civil Rights to
Macon Negro

3-10-33
A full pardon, under which all civil rights are restored, has been granted Dr. M. Clarence Mitchell, Macon Negro physician, paroled several months ago after serving about 10 years on a sentence of life imprisonment.

Macon, Ga.
The pardon was granted by Gov. Eugene Talmadge in Atlanta Wednesday afternoon on application of Mrs. Viola Ross Napier, attorney for Dr. Mitchell.

More than a year ago Gov. Richard B. Russell, Jr., ordered the release of Dr. Mitchell on parole to W. T. Anderson, Macon publisher.

Before his release from prison, however, the physician was required to serve several months on a charge of forgery. The life sentence and the short sentence were imposed in cases growing out of the death of Henry Sam Mitchell, the physician's nephew. The life sentence was for the slaying of the nephew and the forgery case developed when insurance papers on the nephew's life were examined.

Since returning to Macon and resuming his medical practice Dr. Mitchell has made an excellent record, Mrs. Napier said. She carried with her the recommendations of several citizens who urged that a pardon be granted. Recorder M. Felton Hatcher, of Macon, was in the governor's office when the hearing was held and endorsed the application.

While serving at the state prison farm, Milledgeville, Dr. Mitchell was active in the welfare work among the prisoners, rendering medical aid and conducting religious services.

The granting of the pardon completed a lengthy fight in which many white persons participated during the years that followed Dr. Mitchell's conviction. Believing him to be innocent, they petitioned several governors before they finally won freedom for the accused man.

Macon, Ga. News
Thursday, March 9, 1933

PARDON IS GIVEN**TO DR. MITCHELL**

Macon Negro Physician Restored to Full Civil Rights by Governor

Gov. Eugene Talmadge has granted a pardon to Dr. M. Clarence Mitchell, Macon, Negro physician, providing for the restoration of all civil rights, it was learned here Thursday.

The physician was ordered released on parole to W. T. Anderson, Macon publisher, more than a year ago by Gov. Richard B. Russell, Jr., after Dr. Mitchell had served about ten years on a charge of slaying his nephew, Henry Sam Mitchell.

Before his release from prison, however, Dr. Mitchell was required to serve several months on a charge of forgery which grew out of the death of his nephew.

Since returning to Macon and re-opening his office on New street the physician has made a good record, his attorney, Mrs. Viola Ross Napier, pointed out, and Governor Talmadge was impressed by the recommendations of many leading Macon citizens. The hearing was at the state capitol Wednesday.

M. Felton Hatcher, judge of recorder's court and a Macon attorney, happened to be in the governor's office when Mrs. Napier presented the matter to the executive, and Judge Hatcher also recommended that a full pardon be granted.

While at the state prison farm, near Milledgeville, Dr. Mitchell became noted for his medical and religious work among the prisoners. He won the endorsement of B. H. Dunaway, superintendent of the prison farm, and other prison officials.

The physician was convicted of killing his nephew to collect insurance and sentenced to life imprisonment. Dr. Mitchell denied the crime and steadfastly maintained that he was innocent. Many white persons, believing him innocent, became interested in his case and the granting of the parole and now the full pardon marks the end of a lengthy fight in his behalf.

16-Year Negro Walks 320 Miles To Stand Trial and Wins Freedom

Macon, Ga.
MACON, Ga., May 16. (AP)—Vander Lumpkin regards a promise as something to be taken seriously, so the 16-year-old Negro walked 320 miles to stand trial on a liquor charge and the judge rewarded him with freedom.

He was arrested last December and cited for trial at the May term of federal court. Taking note of his youthfulness, authorities released him on his own recognizance upon his promise to be in court at the appointed time.

The district attorney called his case yesterday and the weary little Negro arose on aching feet and leaned on a chair. He pleaded guilty

and then told Judge Bascom S. Deaver of the ordeal he underwent to keep his promise.

After his arrest he went to Ocala, Fla., and got a job as a farm hand. A week ago his employer read him a letter from the court, designating May 15 for his trial, and Vander started walking.

He plodded along the road day and night and arrived in Macon a few hours before court opened Monday morning.

Judge Deaver placed him on probation for six months and told him to go his way. Court attaches presented him with a purse to pay his way back to Ocala, where his job awaits him.

Negro Sets An Example

Vander Lumpkin is only a country Negro. But if Vander Lumpkin lives the remainder of his life as he has lived the last sixteen years of his life, he is destined to have his name written in as high a place as ever was accorded Abou Ben Adhem.

Macon, Ga.
The Negro, we are told, is one who violates the prohibition law. And, measured by that standard, Vander Lumpkin gives place to no one.

The best citizen, on the other hand, is one who does what society expects of him. Vander Lumpkin lived up to his obligation. And, measured by that standard, Vander Lumpkin takes first place in public esteem.

Vander lives 35 miles from Macon, below Perry. He is an average type of country boy, with little schooling and opportunity.

He was arrested by prohibition officers and brought to Macon on a charge of violating the prohibition laws. Vander was rather young to be caught in the drag net, but nets don't discriminate.

The committing court let Vander sign his own bond. Vander probably didn't know what a bond was, but the white folks told him to sign, and he did.

Vander had been given a ride to Macon by the officers, but when he was released, according to the provisions of the humane society,

he was allowed to get back home 35 miles away the best way he could.

Macon, Ga. News
Vander's only friends were his feet. So he imposed on his friends and got back home. Business was rather slow, according to the story, and Vander sought new fields in search of work.

He in some mysterious way obtained a job with a farmer near Ocala, Fla., where he was paid \$2 per week and his keep.

The United States court was good and human enough to write the boy at his home address that he had failed to answer, and his bond might be forfeited if he didn't protect it and his good name by coming into court, that his cause might be heard.

The court's letter eventually got to Vander 325 miles away, down on the Ocala farm. His employer read his letter for him, and Vander excused himself while he came to attend to the court's business.

He consulted with his good and tried friends, his feet, and the long and weary path to jail was undertaken. He walked every step of the distance, barefooted and penniless.

In court he explained his tardiness, that he couldn't read nor write, and forgot the time the court set for him to come back. But when the court wrote to him about it he got his employer to read his letter, and there he was.

As he told his story his sore feet rebelled, and he braced himself upon court furniture while he stood to show respect to the majesty of the law. He was given six months on probation by a just and upright judge, and Vander will do more to make that judge glad he was lenient with him than possibly any prisoner who has been in that court in many a year. Vander told court officials he would walk back to Ocala to resume his work, on the farm, but they made up a purse to pay his way.

In the flesh Vander is only an ignorant country boy, hardly knowing right from wrong in many particulars.

But in character and fidelity Vander exhibits the sterling qualities out of which heroes are made. His is an example to both white and black, red, yellow, brown—men of all races—to emulate. He violated the prohibition law probably because he didn't know anything of it. But he kept his promise that he did know about.

We haven't the money to spare now, but if we ever get it we are going to build a monument to Vander out there in the public square—not to Vander exactly, but to the priceless example he has set mankind.

And in the meantime Vander ought to be employed by somebody who appreciates the kind of fidelity he exhibits.

OUR DISGRACEFUL JAILS.

their public charges, and save the conditions are permitted to exist as No Georgian can read the re-millions of dollars that are now those revealed by Dr. Fuller. port of the address on the jails of being worse than thrown away Georgia by Dr. Hugh W. Fuller, of every year for the sole purpose of Emory University, without a deep maintaining an oligarchy of county sense of humiliation that such con-officeholders.

ditions as those pictured exist. A state-wide program of con- Dr. Fuller's investigations car-solidations by which adjoining ried on in every section of the counties could be united so as to state, reveal that hundreds of pris-make governmental units represent- oners are being kept in jails thating from 40,000 to 50,000 popu- are little better than pig pens, withlution, instead of from 7,000 to insufficient sanitary precautions, or10,000, as now, would mean better none at all, and, in some instances, schools, better roads, better jails without even beds upon whichand more efficient administration of those charged with crime cancounty affairs in every section of sleep. the state.

In such pest holes, and with im- Such consolidations can be proper food and care, men, womenbrought about only by constitu- and children are kept awaiting trialtional amendment, but in the mean- to establish their guilt or inno-time the revolting conditions in the cence. majority of the jails of the state

The existence of revolting con-can be ameliorated by the simple ditions described by Dr. Fuller, andexpedient of groups of adjoining corroborated by photographs takencounties uniting for the erection of in many of the jails, is charge-a common modern jail in which to able to the fact that Georgia iskeep their prisoners. overburdened with too many coun- Joint jails of this kind could be ty governments. economically operated with due re-

The remedy will not be foundgard to decency and to the cilivized until the people of the state realizetreatment of its inmates. that only by consolidation of weak In the consideration of the jail governments can efficient and eco-situation in Georgia it must be nomical administration of countyborne in mind that because a man affairs be obtained. is put in jail does not mean that

Most experts on county govern-he is guilty of the offense with ments agree that no communitywhich he is charged. He is simply with a population of less thanbeing held until the courts can dis- 10,000 can maintain an adequate,pose of his case.

efficient and economical form of It is barbarously cruel to incar-government. Some hold that thecerate a man in such hell holes as minimum should be 20,000. Sixty-some Georgia counties now label one of the 159 counties in Georgiatheir jails, even after his guilt has have less than 10,000 people. been established. It is far worse

Thus in nearly one-half of theto do so in the case of one who counties of the state there are be-has not been convicted.

ing maintained inefficient, burden- Dr. Fuller has rendered a public some and useless governments forservice to the state in his investi-no other purpose than to main-gation. Already it has borne fruit, tain a group of officeholders andfor some of these conditions have to preserve a county name. been remedied by affected county

It is not surprising that undergovernments as the result of the such governmental conditions thereactivity of the State Welfare So-should have developed conditionsciety.

that, in many instances, tend to The only way that such relief can barbarism. be obtained is through the volun-

The people of these counties aretary action of the county govern-being unnecessarily burdened withments, as there is no law by which excessive taxes. the governor or the prison com-

The way out for them is plain.mission is given authority over the Through consolidations they cancounty jails of the state.

receive greater efficiency, meet Certainly it should not be said every demand of civilization in thethat in a great state of more than treatment of their prisoners and3,000,000 people such shameful

Negress Learns

She Can't Recant

But It's Too Late

Viola Coleman, a Negress, is in Bibb county jail reflecting on the fact that a woman must always pay, even for the prerogative of changing her mind.

Viola swore out a warrant several days ago against her husband, William, charging him with wife beating. When the case was called in city court yesterday, she had decided not to prosecute, so Judge Charles H. Hall sent her to jail for five days in a contempt proceeding.

When such a case is made in city court, Judge Hall requires that the wife sign the complaint in person, and warns her to drop action unless she is determined to prosecute.

Under the contempt rule in this case, sentence was imposed because the prosecution was "adjudged malicious," and "the conduct of the prosecuting witness in declining to testify after having sought the prosecution is considered contumacious to the court."

Judge Hall issued a warning that the same procedure will apply in all future cases regardless of color.

NEGRO KIDNAPER HELD UNDER BOND

Escaped Convict, Jones, Al- leged to Have Figured in Ab- duction of Two Men

ATLANTA, Aug. 17. (AP)—Paul Jones, escaped Negro convict, was ordered held under \$20,000 bond today by United States Commissioner Ed S. Griffith on charges of kidnaping a rural mail carrier and a traveling salesman.

Testimony presented at a preliminary hearing was designed to show Jones and two other fugitives, Lester Trippe and Leo McIntosh, both white men, held up Henry Brock, salesman for the Beck and Gregg Hardware company of Atlanta, seized his automobile and forced him to accompany them from Marietta, Ga., to Knoxville, Tenn.

He was released near the latter city and a posse pursuing the abductors riddled the automobile with bullets. The fugitives escaped, however, returned to Marietta on a freight train and seized a truck.

They proceeded to Crawfordville, Ga., the testimony related, and kidnaped John C. Lyle, a letter carrier.

Tied In Barn

His captors tied him in a barn near Wake Forest, N. C., and proceeded northward in his automobile. Lyle freed himself after a little while and notified authorities.

Jones, Trippe and McIntosh were captured in North Carolina and the Negro was returned here. The white men are still in jail in North Carolina.

The evidence at the hearing included Jones' signed confession that he participated in the abductions.

Commissioner Griffith ordered him held pending federal grand jury action which will consider charges based on the new federal law against interstate transportation of kidnapped persons.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times

July 29, 1933

MICHIGAN'S REWARD.

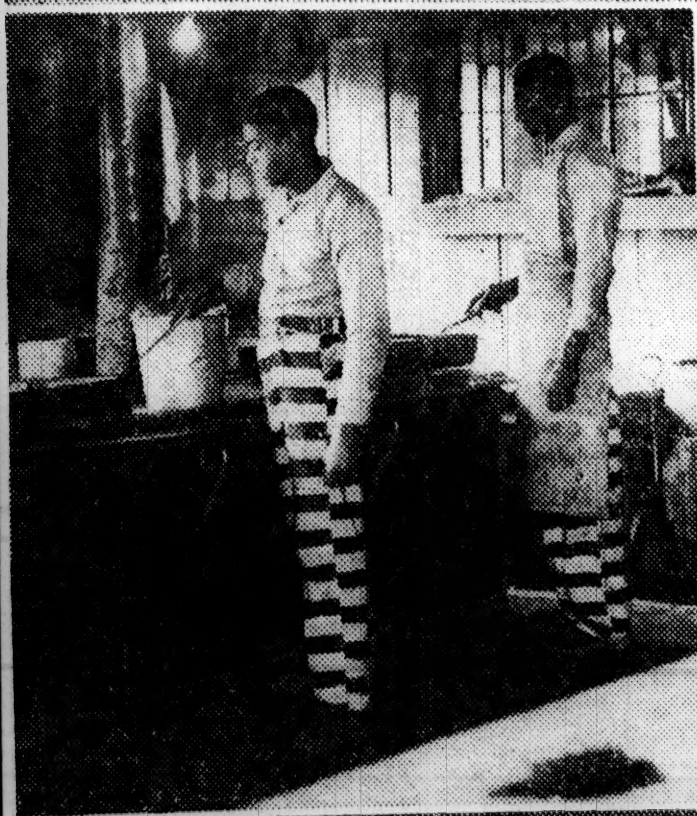
The Governor of Michigan several months ago declined to honor a requisition from the Governor of Georgia for an escaped Negro convict. He did not like the way Georgia chaingangs are run. Shortly before that time the Governor of New Jersey declined to honor a similar requisition for a notorious white convict who had escaped from a chaingang. Georgia's penal practices did not suit the Governor of New Jersey.

Michigan has begun to reap its reward. James Cook, notorious Negro felon, who twice escaped from a chaingang, took refuge in Michigan. Eventually, he used a razor on another Michigan resident, was arrested in Detroit for the crime and was also held as a fugitive from Georgia. Georgia authorities were notified, whereupon Warden I. N. Nichols, of the Cedartown prison, wrote the Detroit authorities a very frank letter, in which he said:

Inasmuch as the Governor of Michigan has refused to return escaped prisoners to Georgia when proper showing is made that they are fugitives from justice, this department feels that it is not justified in sending officers to Michigan for the return of Cook. Prosecute him, if you have anything against him; if not, turn him loose on society. He is a thief, a murderer and a bad man.

While Georgia's refusal to claim and send for an escaped convict is not to be commended, Michigan would seem to be getting nothing more than it deserves. If Georgia maintains its present attitude in the matter of convicts who escape to Michigan, it will not be surprising if the Great Lakes State comes to regret the action of its Governor in making it a haven for such characters. And one may wonder whether there will not also be a trek of escaped Georgia convicts to New Jersey.

Bellwood Camp Survey Refutes 'Inhuman Torture' Charge



Scenes in the daily life at the Bellwood prison camp, which was inspected Saturday by a ~~constitution~~ reporter. His survey ~~revealed~~ that prisoners are not treated "inhumanly," and that all inmates are given the best of food and care. ~~Hospitalization~~ ~~for the~~ ~~is~~ provided and many convicts are happier at the camp than when free. At

the top is a scene between the wings of the sleeping quarters, looking toward the camp offices. Lower left is shown two negro cooks, both convicts, preparing the noonday meal for all the prisoners, and at the lower right is a picture taken in the negro ward of the Bellwood infirmary. Conditions at the camp were declared excellent.

"LET GEORGIA DEFEND HERSELF"

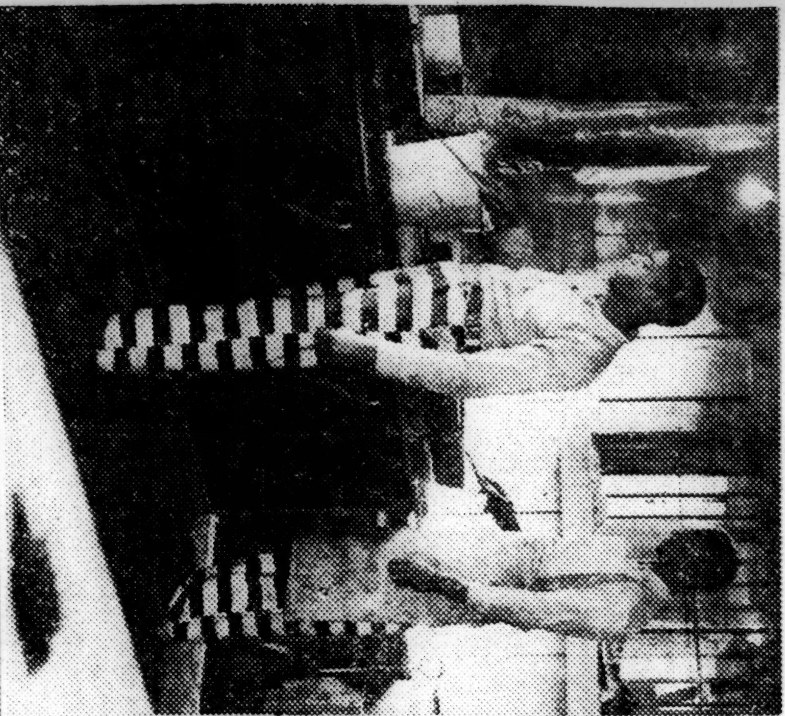
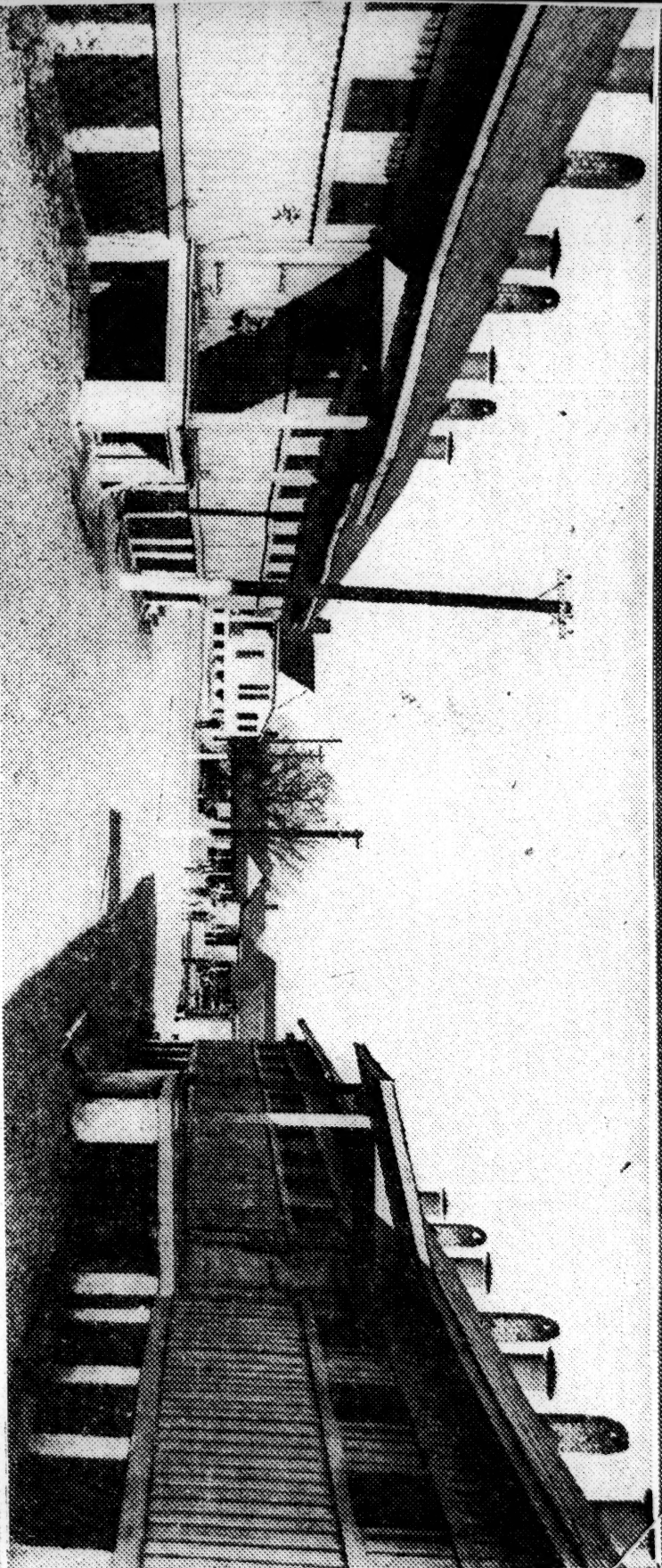
We have before us an eight-page section of the Des Moines Tribune filled with slanderous write-up and pictures of an alleged mode of punishment meted out to convicts of this state. It is sketches credited to the "Georgia Nigger" a slanderous book alleged to have been written by John L. Spivak who claims to have got permission from the state prison commission to make a study of convict camps in Georgia. These eight pages of scandal are sufficient to turn the stomach of the strongest of men and if true as depicted in these eight pages the State of Georgia would be a disgrace to the darkest point of heathenism on the face of the earth. It is enough to arouse to activity of the manhood and womanhood of this great state to call time and investigate these slanderous charges and bare the facts. If any part of it is true admit the truth and clean up the disgrace and on the other hand if it is malicious falsehood meet it with the resentment publicity it deserves. As a native citizen of this state for more than sixty years behind us and having during that period seen and observed all sides of life, we know that there has been some bad things happen a few times in isolated spots but nothing to compare with this outrageous charge. We feel that the Georgia Legislature has a duty to perform in this matter and we hope it goes after it with gloves off.—Thomasville Press.

Survey of Camp Casts Doubt On New Chain Gang Charges

Alleged "inhuman torture" inflicted by those in charge, he notified the chain gang consists of treating prisoners who sends the prisoner back to the quarters so well that many negroes visit-prisoner is examined by a county late the law for the sole intent of physician, who determines whether "getting back home again," it up-the man is really ill, and, if so, sends him to the infirmary. "In the entire Bellwood camp to- at Bellwood Saturday." "The entire Bellwood camp to- The release Friday of Governor day," said Deputy Tyree, "there are William Comstock, of Michigan, to only two men wearing double shackles, honor Georgia's record for W. These two are negroes who jumped lie Crawford, escaped negro from on an inoffensive life-term the other Bellwood camp, prompted The Consti- night when lights went out, and they tution to send a reporter to that camp began hurling coal all over the build- headquarters of the Fulton chain gang. "Something has to be done to men system. Governor Comstock Satur- day said that the fugitive's charges what can you do to a person who did not enter into his decision. Deputy Warden Edward Tyree, in deliberately causes trouble? The law charge of Bellwood, revealed the ran- forbids whipping, but some means of tine instructions for the care of a correction is necessary, and so we are sick prisoner. An infirmary is main- tained, as well as a drug room where every kind of medicine necessary for a hospital is kept."

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Survey of Camp Casts Doubt On New Chain Gang Charges

If a prisoner feels ill in the morning, "at work time, it was explained by those in charge, he notifies the guard, who sends the prisoner back to the sleeping quarters. Later the chain gang consists of treating prisoners so well that many negroes violate the law for the sole intent of physician, who determines whether "getting back home again," it appears from a survey made Saturday at Bellwood camp.

The refusal of Governor Comstock, of Michigan, to only two men wearing double shackles, honor Georgia's reputation for Wil These two are negroes who jumped lie Crawford, escaped negro from on an inoffensive life-terminer the other Bellwood camp, prompted The Constitution to send a reporter to that camp headquarters of the Fulton chain gang system. Governor Comstock Saturday said that the fugitive's charges did not enter into his decision.

Deputy Warden Edward Tyree, in charge of Bellwood, revealed the routine instructions for the care of a sick prisoner. An infirmary is maintained, as well as a drug room where every kind of medicine necessary for a hospital is kept.

"LET GEORGIA DEFEND HERSELF"

We have before us an eight-page section of the Des Moines Tribune filled with slanders written up and picture ~~of~~ ^{mode of} punishment meted out to convicts of this state. It is sketches credited to the "Georgia Nigger" slanderous book alleged to have been written by John L. Spivak who claims to have got permission from the state prison commission to make a study of convict camps in Georgia. These eight pages of scandal ~~propose~~ ^{propose} to turn the stomach of the strongest of men and if true as reported in these eight pages the State of Georgia would be a disgrace to the darkest point of heathenism on the face of the earth. It is enough to arouse to activity of the manhood and womanhood of this great state to call time and investigate these slanderous charges and bare the facts. If any part of it is true admit the truth and clean up the disgrace and on the other hand if it is malicious falsehood meet it with the resentment publicity it deserves. As a native citizen of this state for more than sixty years behind us and having during that period seen and observed all sides of life, we know that there has been some bad things happen a few times in isolated spots but nothing to compare with this outrageous charge. We feel that the Georgia Legislature has a duty to perform in this matter and we hope it goes after it with gloves off.—Thomasville Press.

WILD CHAIN GANG KARN SCARES AUTO TOURIST

**"Ridiculous and Absurd"
Brand Put on Story by Savannah Motor Club.**

SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 18.—(P)—They are telling it around in the north that tourists passing through Georgia are liable to have trouble with chain gang guards and the Savannah Motor Club has taken action to spike such stories as "ridiculous and absurd."

A letter received by Mrs. Eva P. Royall, manager of the club, from the Staten Island division of the Automobile Club of New York, asked for confirmation or denial of the stories. It read:

"One of our members is making a trip to Florida and was informed that he is liable to have trouble going through Georgia because of the recent difficulties with the chain gang. He is driving a seven-passenger car, but there will be only six in the car. He was told that if he carried more than four passengers, he is liable to be held up and possibly lose his car."

The New York club requested prompt information, saying "if the above is the case, our member will undoubtedly postpone his trip."

"I am certainly at a loss to understand where your member could have received such a ridiculous report," Mrs. Royall replied. "There is absolutely no truth in it."

Georgia Chain Gang Defended by Wyatt

Judge Lee B. Wyatt, of LaGrange sitting as a visiting judge in Fulton superior court, Thursday in flaying the reports current in other states that the Georgia chain gang system is brutal, made direct reference to Governor Moore of New Jersey, who refused to extradite Robert Elliott Burns, a fugitive from a Georgia prison camp. Judge Wyatt made his remarks in passing sentence on Rich Wilson, negro convicted of murder. Wilson had been given the death sentence but the verdict was reversed by the supreme court, and Thursday Wilson was sentenced to life following a consent verdict.

Judge Wyatt told the defendant that he had narrowly escaped the electric chair and called attention to the reports of brutality in the chain gangs. "They are false," he asserted. "no matter whether they are charged by the governor of New Jersey or anyone else. Any camp in Georgia you are sent to will treat you right."

GEORGIA PRISON SYSTEM

Thanks to "Georgia Nigger" and "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chain Gang," a book and a motion picture, an investigation has been started to determine what is wrong with the Georgia prison system. According to information coming out of Georgia, the probe was inaugurated by some public spirited white men and women who are unwilling to believe that their state is as bad as it has been pictured recently.

We hope the investigation is pushed to its fullest extent—not because we have any doubt of what will be found—but because we do not want "public spirited white men and women" of Georgia to be able to say again that they did not know of these conditions. If there is anything at all in the situation to cause wonderment it is the fact that Georgia citizens did not know about conditions within its prison system. That, to us, is unbelievable.

Another reason we hope the investigation will continue is that it will serve as a check on those state and city officials who have rushed headlong into the courts to sue authors and motion picture distributors, charging that they have been slandered. As the probe continues it will become more and more apparent that it is impossible to "slander" a state that has given to the world such rotten ideas of justice as have come out of Georgia.

**MACON, GA.
NEWS**

JAN 6 - 1933

Make It Constructive

INTER-STATE representative Georgians have addressed to the incoming members of the general assembly a spirited request for a thorough investigation of recent charges that inhuman practices and conditions exist in Georgia prison camps.

Taken alphabetically the first five names on the list are those of Samuel B. Adams, attorney, Savannah; W. N. Ainsworth, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, Macon; Aquilla Chamblee, president of Bessie Tift college, Forsyth; Ed. F. Cook, pastor Vineville Methodist church, Macon; and Harvey Cox, president of Emory University, Atlanta.

The remainder of the list is of like character.

Accompanying the request is an 8-page newspaper supplement issued by the Des Moines Tribune in which is printed liberal extracts from the book by John L. Spivak, "Georgia Nigger," in which the Georgia prison system was severely condemned. The extracts are illustrated with a number of pictures purporting to show some of the inhuman practices to which prisoners are subjected in

Georgia prison camps.

In making the request that the legislature investigate these charges, the committee pointed out that Georgia has been given national publicity and that the charges are serious enough to "justify and demand an investigation so vigorous and impartial as to leave no doubt regarding the facts and to provide an intelligent basis for such reforms as may be found necessary." Such an investigation, it believes, "will be a genuine service to the state and to a multitude of its helpless wards."

Not only in the name of humanity, but in the interest of the reputation of the state of Georgia, this inquiry certainly should be made and there is nothing but praise for the members of the committee, actuated by the highest motive, who have urged that the general assembly make an investigation so thorough that there can be no doubt of the facts.

It has been charged, by members of the Georgia prison commission, that many of the photographs used in Spivak's sensational book were fakes; that he hired a negro, on at least one occasion, to place himself in the stocks and to assume the attitude of torture alleged to be a common thing in the routine of punishment.

It might as well be said in the beginning, however, that any investigation should be merely a part of a larger study that would prove constructive in its nature. We have no doubt that there have been abuses in the prison system of Georgia and of every other state in this country. There is something inherently brutalizing about the punishment of crime, at best.

The state of Delaware still prescribes whipping as a legal method of punishment in certain cases. Its advocates and supporters warmly defend it on the ground, first, that being administered openly and legally, it is not needlessly severe and yet it is more effective than any other form of punishment that has been devised.

The constitution of Georgia provides that whipping and banishment shall not be used as a punishment for crime. For many years this constitutional provision remained a dead letter, so far as discipline in the prison camps was concerned. The lash was freely employed. Thomas W. Hardwick, as governor of Georgia, called attention to the fact that whipping was an illegal form of punishment and it was abandoned.

Punishment is of course a corollary of crime and so long as we have one we must have the other. Among criminals we will always have surly and rebellious characters. They cannot legally be punished by whipping in Georgia and the gist of "Georgia Nigger"

is that confinement in the stocks is inhuman, although instances of actual brutality are also alleged.

Thus we find that while it is highly important to investigate conditions in Georgia prison camps, any condemnation of present methods carries with it an obligation to suggest, on the constructive side, an effective substitute.

THE RAID ON THE NEGROES

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Just a word of hearty commendation on the article relative to the arrest of the colored folk that were seemingly doing nothing more than suspect some others whose skins are white do here every week according to reports that have come to me.

The spirit of the article was fine and it had the desired effect. 1-25-33

I believe tremendously in the statement that "Ye That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak." All my life I have tried to make some contribution to the down trodden the helpless, and the weak. I have not always thought that our colored friends have got a fair shake. I feel that we owe a debt to the colored race to help them whenever we can.

I am glad that Mayor Toole joined in the effort to "lend the helping hand" in an hour when it was needed. In these hours when the bread lines are lengthening, and the fight is to keep the wolf away from the door, all of us have a good chance to do our "bit." Unless the offense was more grievous than the paper stated I do not think it would have been the right thing to have taken the money of those arrested, or to have placed them on the gang when many of them are the only "bread ticket" in their homes.

J. A. SMITH.

Traveling Representative of the Methodist Orphanage.

Crime - 1933.

Georgia.

Dance Hall Negro Dies of Pneumonia

WILL (SON) WRIGHT, Negro dance hall proprietor, who recently figured in the news when his establishment was raided and more than a hundred Negroes were jailed, died of pneumonia early Monday morning in a local hospital.

Wright had been sick about a week.

All the prisoners taken in the dance hall raid were subsequently given freedom, but the case attracted considerable editorial comment from local newspapers. The city "divine ordinance" under which the cases were made has since been taken to Bibb Superior court and here held unconstitutional.

MACON, GA.
TELEGRAPH

FEB 4 1933

Letters to The Telegraph

"I despise everything you say—and I will fight to the death for your right to say it"—Voltaire.

COLEMAN HILL'S LIBERALISM

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Coleman Hill, in last Sunday's column said "tales" reaching him about the police merit the description "reign of terror" for their activities. Then, typical of his brand of liberalism, he wrote:

"I shall be glad to confess error upon submission of proof to the contrary."

When Coleman Hill bases his conclusion on "tales that have reached me," it seems to me the burden of proof should rest upon him. I happen to know he did not bother to call police authorities to give them a chance to explain or defend the "reign of terror." He has no names, places, dates, examples; yet he demands proof before he will believe he is wrong.

I demand proof before I will believe he is right. He said that at one gathering in Pleasant Hill "a white policeman, in attendance to maintain order, several times called a woman from the floor and berated her for dancing in what he held an objectionable manner. . . . I get this tale from a white onlooker."

Mr. Hill objects to the "white policeman" acting as a censor of morals. Naturally. The trouble with Mr. Hill is his ignorance. The "white policeman" mentioned, if the columnist has in mind the Pleasant Hill "club" I believe his "white onlooker" told him of, was a man hired by the operator of the club, and paid by the members of the club, to keep order. The same Negroes could have fired him if they disliked his "censorship." I think he was hired after a murder there to prevent the likelihood of another. I have the word of Chief Watkins, who knows more about the police than Mr. Hill, that "white policemen" never attend Negro dances.

I think I am better acquainted with the police than Mr. Hill, who did not bother even to telephone, much less to visit them before he became enraged about the "reign of terror."

I might be able to agree with some of the criticisms of the police by Coleman Hill if I had any indication that he knew what he was talking about. The dance license, if it is required for "even a private dance", which the police deny and of which Mr. Hill offers no proof, should certainly be stopped. I can't get mad about it from reading Mr. Hill, however, because again he doesn't know what he is talking about. The price is 50 cents, not 25 cents as he said. The regular tax for dance halls is \$25 (City of Macon License and Tax Ordinance, Page 12), but a Negro is allowed to give one dance for profit for 50 cents. The license is not supposed to be charged except when the "host" charges an admittance fee.

I would suggest wider publicity among Negroes about what their rights are. If they think they have to pay the fee for a private dance, you should tell them in the Negro section of The Telegraph that this is not true. Perhaps the Urban league, an organization of both white persons and Negroes, could devise some plan of acquainting local Negroes with their rights, even in a "reign of terror." Chief Watkins is chairman of the executive committee of the league.

HOWARD LEONARD

Fugitive From Chain Gang, In Brooklyn Jail "Just Walked Off" He Tells Judge Who Asked How He Escaped

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Lee Brown, 22, of Brooklyn, admitted last Wednesday in Kings County Court, that he was a fugitive from a Georgia chain gang. He said his southern guards treated him well, but that he got bored and "just walked off."

Judge George W. Martin became interested when he learned that the prisoner before him has escaped and dread chain gang.

"How did they treat you?" the jurist asked.

"Pretty good," Brown said. "How did you get away?" Judge Martin persisted.

"Oh, I just walked away."

Brown was charged with manslaughter. He threw a brick from the roof of a building at 373 Howard ave., on January 1, following an argument with several men. The brick struck Wilton Upshur, and fatally injured him.

Maurice Nias, counsel for Brown, said that his client threw the brick in

self defense, having been attacked by six men who chased him to the roof. Judge Martin permitted a plea of guilty to attempted assault in the third degree, which, as a second offender, will send Brown to prison for five years. Judge Martin told Brown that he would write to the Georgia authorities asking them not to press for his return after his New York term has been completed.

He remanded Brown for sentence.

Rioting Indictment Names 4 in Stabbing Of Councilman Foster

Indictments charging rioting and assault to murder were returned by the Fulton grand jury against four negroes late Tuesday in connection with the stabbing of City Councilman Homer C. Foster and his brother, Edward L. Foster, the night of May 28, at Walker and Peters Streets.

The negroes are: Charles Edwards, John Gholston, Henry Foster and John Simmons. The assault to murder indictment contains two counts, one charging the stabbing of the councilman with a knife, the other charging an attack with a razor on Edward L. Foster. Both were badly slashed in their automobile during a disturbance on the street corner. The rioting indictment sets up the attack, coupled with "tumultuous conduct" by the defendants at the time.

A third indictment charges the negro, Edwards, with driving a car while drunk. As the aftermath of a liquor raid at 468 West Peachtree Street by city police on June 4, the grand jury returned three indictments against R. H. Davis and his wife, who were arrested in the residence at the time. One bill charges distilling, the second, possessing distilling equipment, and the third possession of 185 gallons of whisky.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
July 2, 1933

N. A. A. C. P. COMPLAINT ANSWERED BY CHIEF

Request of the Atlanta branch of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, through A. T. Walden, president, that Mayor Key use his influence with the police commission to have an investigation of alleged brutal killings of negroes by policemen was answered Saturday by Chief of Police T. O. Sturdivant with a counter attack demanding to know what the association has done about the "brutal murder of police-men by negroes."

"If you would devote as much energy and zeal to the condemnation of negro butchers and criminals as you do to reviling officers of the law whose duty compels them to defensive warrant. Cook, however, still is charged with slashing a man with

themselves against attacks by members of your race you would accomplish something really worth while in my opinion," Chief Sturdivant wrote Walden.

Sturdivant informed Walden that "I am continually hearing complaints from so-called advancement and uplift associations to the effect that police are brutal in their treatment of negroes and that negroes have been killed without provocation, and I have yet to hear of a single instance where any such association ever condemned negroes for killing police." He wanted to know what the organization did when a "group of negro hoodlums brutally murdered Detective Foster," and "when a negro murderer snuffed out the life of Detective Holton?"

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
July 31, 1933

GEORGIA REFUSES TO GET PRISONER

Officials Won't Send Officers to Michigan For Escape From Cedartown

DETROIT, July 26. (AP)—So far as escaped prisoners are concerned, the state of Georgia doesn't intend to do business with the state of Michigan. That is made plain in letters from two prison officials of the southern state, refusing to send officers for James H. Cook, 25-year-old Negro who had been held here on a warrant charging him with escaping from the Cedartown, Ga., chain gang.

The reason is believed to be the refusal a few months ago by the governor of Michigan to return Jesse Crawford, a Negro, to a Georgia chain gang while the furore caused by a motion picture about penal methods in the South was at its height.

A letter from I. N. Nichols, warden of the Cedartown prison said part: "Inasmuch as the governor of Michigan has refused to return escaped prisoners to Georgia when proper showing is made that they were fugitives from justice, this department feels that it is not justified in sending officers to Michigan for the return of Cook. Prosecute him if you have anything against him; if not, turn him loose on society. He's a thief, a murderer and a bad man."

That letter and another, in similar vein, from V. L. Stanley, member of the Georgia prison commission, were read in recorder's court by Assistant Prosecutor Thomas A. Kenney yesterday and Judge Christopher E. Stein quashed the fugitive warrant. Cook, however, still is charged with slashing a man with

a razor, the offense for which he was arrested July 5. Kenney told the court Cook escaped twice from the Cedartown gang, the first time in 1928 while serving a term for forgery and the second time in 1932 while serving time for manslaughter and carrying concealed weapons.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
July 31, 1933

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW.

The granting of a new trial to John Stark, Jonesboro negro sentenced to the electric chair on his plea of guilty to the murder of a white woman, but whose confession was not corroborated by other evidence, as required by Georgia law, is an outstanding refutation of recent widely published charges originating in the north that the negro cannot get justice in the courts of the south.

The husband of the murdered woman had been tried and convicted and was serving a life term when a negro arrested by Atlanta police

testified to the husband's innocence and the guilt of Stark. The latter confessed the murder and the white man was pardoned by Governor Talmadge.

Brought to trial, the negro Stark confessed the murder, was found guilty, and sentenced to death. An appeal was made by his counsel on the ground that the penal code provided that "a confession alone, uncorroborated by other evidence, will not justify a conviction," and a new trial was promptly granted by the court.

Judge Hutcheson's decision was both correct and courageous, and it answers the constantly recurring charge that the law is not meted out to negroes and whites alike in the courts of the south.

Officer Ordered Held Without Bail

Three attorneys represented the

Plans were being rushed Friday by the police department and the Georgia Power Company to install police radios in power company cars for special officers to aid the regular force in curbing the wave of crime which has resulted in three street car robberies in three days.

Newnan, Ga., Herald
August 18, 1933

NEGRO SETS AN EXAMPLE

Vander Lumpkin is only a country Negro. But if Vander Lumpkin lives the remainder of his days as he has lived the first sixteen years of his life, he is destined to have his name written in as high a place as ever was accorded Abou Ben Adhem.

The worst citizen, we are told is one who violates the prohibition law. And measured by that standard, Vander Lumpkin gives place to no one.

The best citizen, on the other hand, is one who does what society expects of him. Vander Lumpkin lived up to his obligation. And, measured by that standard, Vander Lumpkin takes first place in public esteem.

Vander lives 35 miles from Macon, below Perry. He is an average type of country boy, with little schooling and opportunity.

He was arrested by prohibition officers and brought to Macon on a charge of violating the prohibition laws. Vander was rather young to be caught in the drag net, but nets don't discriminate.

The committing court let Vander sign his own bond. Vander probably didn't know what a bond was, but the white folks told him to sign, and he did.

Vander had been given a ride to Macon by the officers, but when he was released, according to the provisions of the humane society he was allowed to get back home 35 miles away the best way he could.

Vander's only friends were his feet. So he imposed on his friends and got back home. Business was rather slow, according to the story, and Vander sought new fields in search of work.

He in some mysterious way located a job with a farmer near Ocala, Fla., where he was paid \$2 per week and his keep.

The United States court was good and human enough to write the boy at his home address that he had failed to answer, and his bond might be forfeited if he didn't protect it and his good name by coming into court, that his cause might be heard.

The court's letter eventually got to Vander 325 miles away, down on the Ocala farm. His employer read his letter for him, and Vander excused himself while he came to attend to the court's business.

He consulted with his good and tried friends, his feet, and the long and weary path to jail was undertaken. He walked every step of the distance, barefoot-

ed and penniless.

In court he explained his tardiness that he couldn't read nor write, and forgot the time the court set for him to come back. But when the court wrote to him about it he got his employer to read his letter, and there he was.

As he told his story his sore feet rebelled, and he braced himself upon court furniture while he stood to show respect to the majesty of the law. He was given six months on probation by a just and upright judge, and Vander will do more to make that judge glad he was lenient with him than possibly any prisoner who has been in that court in many a year. Vander told court officials he would walk back to Ocala to resume his work, on the farm, but they made up a purse to pay his way.

In the flesh Vander is only an ignorant country boy, hardly knowing right from wrong in many particulars.

Put in character and fidelity Vander exhibits the sterling qualities out of which heroes are made. His is an example to both white and black, red, yellow, brown—men of all races—to emulate. He violated the prohibition law probably because he didn't know anything of it. But he kept his promise that he did know about.

We haven't the money to spare now, but if we ever get it we are going to build a monument to Vander out there in the public square—not to Vander exactly, but to the priceless example he has set mankind.

And in the meantime Vander ought to be employed by somebody who appreciates the kind of fidelity he exhibits — Macon Telegraph.

Atlanta Murder Rate in 1932 Is Second Highest in Country

\$500 Reward Posted For Escaped Trusty

Atlanta was listed second in the rate of murders per capita for 1932 in a nation-wide survey conducted by Frederick Rex, librarian for the city of Chicago, according to figures released Monday. Jacksonville, Fla., was first and Memphis, Tenn., was third.

Chief T. O. Sturdivant, of the Atlanta police department, Monday night laid the blame for the high rate on the heavy negro population of the city, estimating that only 40 of the 122 killings listed for the city during 1932 involved white persons. Ten per cent of the whites killed were slain by negroes, he said.

"The great majority of the number slain in Atlanta were negroes, killed by negroes," the chief asserted, "and the reason there are so many murders among the negroes is that few negroes are ever electrocuted. We bring them before the courts and manslaughter is the verdict with a term of imprisonment as the sentence."

"Many of the slaying of negroes by negroes would be stopped if the murderers were sentenced to death," he said.

Atlanta's total of 122 killed in 1932 was a percentage of 43.10 per 100,000. Jacksonville led with a percentage of 43.88, but with only 61 murders listed. Mr. Rex compiled his figures from reports made to the United States bureau of investigation and other reports regarded by him as authentic.

CHICAGO RANKS 26TH

IN NATIONAL CRIME LIST
CHICAGO, Aug. 21.—(AP)—Jacksonville, Fla., led the nation in rate of murders per capita during 1932, according to a survey just completed by Frederick Rex, librarian for the city of Chicago, while this city, much publicized as the haunt of the gangster, ranked 26th.

Rex made a survey of 95 cities having a population of more than 100,000. His statistics were based upon figures furnished by police reports to the bureau of investigation.

Continued in Page 4, Column 3. ATLANTA MURDER RATE IS SECOND HIGHEST IN U. S.

Continued From First Page.

of the department of justice, and other figures regarded by him as authentic.

The table placed Jacksonville, Fla., at the top of the list for 1932 with 61 murders, a ratio of 43.88 for each 100,000 population. In 1931 the city

ranked second with 47 murders and a ratio of 35.87. In 1931 Birmingham, Ala., led, 2-22-33.

The first 15 cities in Rex's 1932 table are as follows:

City—	Murders Per 100,000	'31 Rank
Jacksonville	43.88	2
Atlanta	43.10	No report
Memphis	39.92	No report
Birmingham	30.32	1
Fort Worth	27.53	4
Tampa	23.14	23
Miami	22.93	7
Houston	22.83	5
Kansas City, Kan.	21.00	14
Dallas	19.85	21
San Antonio	18.69	6
Louisville	18.18	18
Knoxville, Tenn.	17.86	9
Camden, N. J.	17.64	No report
Richmond, Va.	16.21	16

Rex's table showed the following cities as reporting no murders in 1932:

Fall River, Mass.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Lowell, Mass.; New Bedford, Mass.; Reading, Pa.; South Bend, Ind., and Utica, N. Y.

JACKSONVILLE POLICE CHIEF

DISCOUNTS SURVEY FIGURES
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug. 21.—(AP)—Chief of Police Abel J. Roberts, informed tonight that Jacksonville had led the nation in rate of murders per capita in 1932, discounted the figures compiled by Frederick Rex, Chicago city librarian.

The figures released by Rex showed 61 murders. Roberts said there actually were 54 homicides in Jacksonville in 1932, not counting those who were wounded in neighboring localities and who died in hospitals here.

Of the 54 homicides—most of them were not classed as murders—Roberts said negroes figured in 49 of them. Forty-seven negroes killed 47 other negroes, he said, and two negroes killed two white men. Only five white persons were killed by white persons during the year, Roberts said, and all were reported monthly to the bureau of investigation, department of justice.

"I don't know where Mr. Rex obtained his total of 61 for Jacksonville," the chief said.

Noting that southern cities led for the first eight places on the list, Chief Roberts said, "Wherever you find a large negro population you will find a large homicide rate. The population ratio for negroes here is about 40 per cent."

Rewards totaling \$500 have been offered for the arrest of Mack James, negro, escaped Banks county trusty, who is being sought for the assault and murder of a young white woman near Homer last Wednesday.

James was serving his second long sentence for assault at the time of the latest crime. He was first convicted in Jones county in 1922 and sentenced to serve 17 years being paroled by Governor Richard B. Russell Jr. in December, 1931, on recommendation of the prison commission. He was arrested again for assault at Macon in 1932 and sentenced to serve 20 years and assigned to the Banks county gang, where he was made a trusty several months ago.

The \$500 reward is being offered by Banks county and the state, the county commission and the governor having posted \$250 each.

James is described as being between 40 and 45 years of age, about five feet, ten inches tall, and weighing 156 pounds. He has a rough face, with pit-marks on both the face and forehead. His lips and nose are thick. The end of his little finger on the left hand also shows that it has been injured.

2 DOOM!

IN 1 R DERS

A jury in superior court Thursday night says the lie reports recently published that intra-racial murders are prevalent among negroes because southern judges are too prone to be lenient in punishing one negro for the killing of another.

John Carter, negro, was sentenced by Judge C. C. Pittman of Cartersville, who is presiding in a special division of Fulton superior court, to die on November 3 for the murder May 17 of A. M. Watson, negro, operator of a filling station at Layson-Turner avenue and Ashby street.

Earlier in the day, another jury returned a verdict carrying life imprisonment for George Ray, negro, who was convicted of the murder of Homey Watts, the latter having been stabbed with a knife on July 15.

UNUSUAL CAUSE FOR HOMICIDE

Publicly certain white men express abhorrence for the Negro. Under cover of darkness there is a reversion of attitude toward our weaker sex. This is not a recent fact, but has existed for time even remote. The illicit relation between this class of white men and a detestable type of our women was brought to the fore in Wayne county, this state, during the week. A colored man, while living with a woman, accused her of being intimate with a white man of the neighborhood. The affair reached a climax when a baby was born, with every indication of a white strain. This confirmed the assertion of white intimacy. The colored man was indignant and so expressed himself. The woman threatened him with having the white man lead a mob to lynch him. While working in a field the woman told him that she sent the white man a note to this effect; he then fatally cut her throat. Were it not for this degraded white man, the woman would have been living today and the colored man would not be incarcerated, charged with murder. In the meantime the white man is safe from harm and possibly from the scorn of his neighbors. This type of white men is the cause of the ruin of many of our women. In our city, after night fall, they can be found molesting our women. Some time they receive a trimming, made public, and in others they are scathingly rebuked by strong-minded women. In a few instances the assistance of officers was sought, but without avail. Some of our women, being weak-minded, fail to report the occurrences, and others fall victim to the morons. There should be a concerted action to force these men into their places. Their racial abhorrence during daylight should be prevalent during darkness. Our women should join the movement to assist in bringing them to cover so that they can be meted their just deserts.

NEGRO GIVEN DEATH

IN ROBBERY SLAYING

Death in the electric chair at Milledgeville on November 17 was ordered Tuesday for Floyd South, negro, by Judge John D. Humphries, of Fulton superior court, following the return of a jury verdict finding South guilty of the murder of Bennie Gadlin, Decatur street merchant, in an attempt holdup of the Goddard store on May 13.

South's trial was held Monday and a verdict was rendered late Monday night, but was sealed and returned Tuesday morning.

NEGROES SENTENCED TO DIE ON OCTOBER 27

JASPER, Ga., Sept. 27.—A trial jury here today found Grady Brooks and George Zuberli, negroes, guilty of the murder of Lee Lindsey, a convict guard, who attempted camp break on July 2, and the death sentence was passed condemning them to the electric chair October 27.

The jury further found Robert Copeland, negro, guilty but recommended the mercy of the court, while Rufus Sandeik (white), who was indicted at the same time, was found not guilty.

Reese Castleberry Jr., the other negro charged with complicity in the plot will be tried Thursday.

A CONTRAST

A few weeks ago a fifteen year old white boy with others of his friends on the West side shot Joseph Brown, a colored youth, without the least provocation. He was indicted and tried before Judge Meldrim last week. The accused was sentenced to serve six months in jail. This sentence was probated. The act of the white boy was an unwarranted one which could have resulted in the death of the victim, but in consideration of his youth he was given a chance to make good. This is in keeping with the attitude of Judge Meldrim, and which no one can justly gainsay. This case can be contrasted with one taking place at Cusseto, this state, also last week. Early Baker and his nine year old son were accused of perjury. They were found guilty. The father was sentenced to a term of ten years in the penitentiary and the nine year old son was given a four year term. In no manner would we condone crime or uphold this offense of perjury, nor should we oppose the findings of a judge, but we can feel keenly the sentencing of a man to ten years in the penitentiary for such an offense and more so the blighting of the young life of a nine year old boy by placing him among hardened criminals for four years. The sentencing of this mere child is a travesty on justice. At his age he should have been turned over to the juvenile authorities to be dealt with. It is understood that the state law requires this to be done. The penalty inflicted upon this child should be legally protested. Our people in Cusseto, Chattahoochee county, and the nearby city of Columbus should lead in this effort. If Judge Meldrim had presided in this case, this mere child would not have been dealt with so harshly.

THE FUGITIVE ASKS MERCY

so. He repeatedly said so.

The Georgia chain gang fugitive is in the headlines again. Not that Mr. Robert E. Burns is unaccustomed to the headlines. Mr. Burns likes the headlines. He likes to be a martyr. Burns dealt in needless slander. He ruined his case in the eyes of level-headed persons by his exaggerations, though he gained quite a following among the unenlightened sentimentalists who shiver at the thought of punishment.

But the convicted holdup man who twice escaped from Georgia prison camps and who wrote of his "sufferings" in captivity is not thumbing his nose at the State of Georgia. He has asked Governor Talmadge for executive clemency. The next time Burns was heard of by Georgia officers he was arrested in New Jersey.

The Governor of Georgia attempted to bring the man back to the Southern State to complete his term. It is customary to bring escaped convicts back to finish their terms.

But the Governor of New Jersey was impressed by Burns's wild yarns. He refused to return the fugitive to a Georgia chain gang.

That was several months ago.

This week Burns asked the Governor of Georgia for a pardon.

Less proud men, we think, never would ask for mercy from a State at which they once had thumbed their noses. But Burns is no proud man. He is a professional martyr who loves his work—which, too, makes his plea for mercy surprising.

But one day he failed to return from an errand.

Georgia authorities went through the usual procedure of sending out circulars, notifying police bodies in other States to search for the fugitive.

The next time Burns was heard from was through an article he had written for a detective magazine. From hiding he wrote a series of sensational stories, telling of brutal treatment in the Georgia chain gangs.

Burns is an adept sob sister. He showed great talents in describing his sufferings and the brutality of prison guards. His language was strong. It was too strong.

It may have been possible that Burns was mistreated. It may have been possible that he did not deserve the treatment he received. Who knows?

But it was obvious from Burns's writings that he dealt only in half-truths. He was making a case for Robert E. Burns, martyr. He lost no opportunity to state his innocence, his humility, his desire to do right. On the other hand he was careful to paint the State of Georgia, its people and its officials in the blackest colors.

Burns was the unfortunate victim of circumstances. He said so. He repeatedly said so.

The Other Side was composed of as conscienceless villains as ever slit a bared back with a cat o' nine tails. Burns said

so. He repeatedly said so.

The Other Side was composed of as conscienceless villains as ever slit a bared back with a cat o' nine tails. Burns said

Auto Equipped With Machine Guns Asked by Board in War on Crime

War to the bitter end on increasing crime in Atlanta was declared Monday night as the police committee, in special session, sought \$500 to equip in automobiles with machine guns to combat what was described as an "armed underworld and an increasing communist movement here."

Chief of Police T. O. Sturdivant urged the police committee to take the action and disclosed a file of communications from communists of the country, one coming from Atlanta headquarters, located on Auburn avenue.

Communist activity has increased in Atlanta in recent months, Chief Sturdivant told the committee. "The police department," he said, "should be prepared for an emergency."

Should the money be forthcoming, Sturdivant would mount two machine guns on one of the police department's newest and speediest automobiles, equip the machine with tear gas bombs, and assign to it four selected officers whose duty it would be to patrol the downtown section of the city every night from 10 o'clock until 8 o'clock the next morning.

Four members of the police department who had been convicted on various charges were suspended by the police committee.

Patrolmen G. M. Hailey and G. W. Richardson, who engaged in a street fight August 29 at Forsyth and Hunter streets in a family disagreement, were suspended for 30 days each.

Patrolman M. O. Evans (died) a 15-day suspension, and Patrolman J. B. Hightower nine days following conviction on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer.

The following were elected to the supernumerary list to fill vacancies: J. H. Langley, J. J. Elliott, H. E. Burdett.

The committee voted to approve licensing 150 various places in Atlanta for sale of 3.2 beer.

WHEN GIRL SCREAMS BURGLAR IN HOME SHOTS HER AND FLEES

Also Shoots a Second Time and
Nearly Gets Her Sister;
Girl May Recover

ATLANTA, Oct. 29 (P)—A Negro burglar who entered an apartment here last night shot and seriously wounded Miss Elaine Stephens, 17, when she screamed upon seeing him, and then fled across the apartment porch after firing a second shot which broke a window in an automobile parked in front of the building.

Miss Stephens, who lives with her

Negro Is Punished For Beating Boys

Judge Tells Bryant He Presumes
on Police Protection

ATLANTA, Nov. 9 (P)—The testimony of Chief of Police T. O. Sturdivant as a character witness failed to save Alexander Bryant, Negro, today and he was sentenced to a year on the chain gang for beating up two white youths.

Chief Sturdivant testified he had known the Negro for 14 years, that his character was good and that he was "peaceable."

The state immediately retaliated with evidence to show Bryant had previously been convicted of assault and battery on a white woman, carrying concealed weapons and possession of whisky. Solicitor McClelland charged he operated a wide-open joint near the police station.

Judge Jess M. Wood, in passing sentence said "from what I know of you, your attitude toward white people is wrong. You think that because you operate in the shadow of the police station and because you have the idea Chief Sturdivant and other policemen are your friends you have the mistaken belief you can get away with almost anything."

sister and two other brothers, saw the Negro in an adjoining room as she prepared to go to bed. Startled by her screams, the man fired through the doorway connecting the two rooms.

Miss Lucy Stephens, Elaine's younger sister, was sitting in the automobile when the Negro's second shot struck it but she was not injured.

At a hospital surgeons who performed an operation on the wounded girl said the bullet had penetrated her left lung. They said she probably would recover.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 30, 1933

Hopeful Sign for All

A news story from Eatonton says that an escaping Negro convict was captured at the point of a pistol by another Negro and turned over to the authorities Wednesday. The escapee was asking to be driven away in an automobile. Instead of giving the assistance, the owner of the automobile drew his gun and made the escapee surrender. It so happened that the convict, Walter Chaney, had just wrecked a truck filled with CWA workers, causing the death of Tom H. Cornette, white, and Lee Lawrence, Negro.

The Negro who captured and returned Walter Chaney to face the law is named Willie Sanders.

The tragedy resulting from the wrecking of the truck and the story of how Chaney escaped from the gang have slight interest in comparison to the fact that Willie Sanders, a Negro, took a racial stand in favor of upholding the law. Negroes as individuals have had fear of the law, and many of them as individuals have shown respect for it; but, dating back through the years since the 60's they as a race have assumed too much of the attitude that the law was the white man's affair, and they as Negroes must protect each other from its operation. The more intelligent of Negroes would admit the error of this attitude; but, yet, as was the case with Governor Rolph, they didn't want to be unpopular, so they took sides against the law. They were not always as bold and defiant about it as Governor Rolph, but were actuated by the same desire to go along the lines of least resistance, and stand by their kind.

It would be a great thing if there were more people in this country with the same sense of patriotism that Willie Sanders, the Negro, showed when he arrested the fugitive from justice. There would be fewer lynchings; and incidentally there would be less race animosity. The law certainly needs friends and protectors now almost as badly as it did in the days when society had not been organized, and when each man had to look out for himself.

November 4, 1933

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
PROVOCATION WAS GREAT

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

I have lived in Richland four years and think I know the people here pretty well. Had you known all the facts in the case I am sure that you would not have written the editorial, Another Stigma on Georgia. You are no more strongly opposed to mob violence than I am, but your editorial does the people of Richland an injustice.

A fearless officer was off duty after his work

of the night. He was called to a section of town inhabited by Negroes. Upon his arrival he found that a Negro girl had been attacked by an ex-convict. This Negro convict was on parole and under the supervision of the officer who had gone to arrest him. Knowing that his arrest meant the chain gang and a new sentence, he seized a piece of iron and made a savage attack upon the officer. Seven severe wounds were made on the head of the officer and he was left for dead. An alarm was sounded by the Negroes of the section and a capture made. Chief Marshall almost had to kill the Negro in making the arrest. However, he was overpowered and placed in the city jail.

After the Negro had been placed in jail, Chief Marshall went to see about his fellow-officer, Bruce, who was thought to be fatally wounded. It was during this excitement that the Negro was taken by a crowd, severely beaten, and set free. When the sheriff arrived he found the Negro and took him to the county jail. He died later in the day.

No town in Georgia can boast a more efficient set of officers than Richland has. Officer Bruce is, I think, the best officer I ever knew, and I can easily see how such an attack under the circumstances could arouse a small town populace.

This is no attempt to justify the act of the men who took the Negro from jail. Had they wished to do so, they certainly could have killed him. That they molested him is to be deplored, but there was greater provocation than was indicated in your editorial. That the Negro was taken from jail in broad open daylight is no reflection on our officers. Mr. Bruce was at the point of death. Chief Marshall had made the arrest, notified the sheriff, and was assisting with his fellow-officer. We are able to keep no large force of men for police duty and when occasions like this happen, it is just too bad. We regret them, but cannot prevent them.

I am writing to give you all the facts that I have, and to assure you that Richland is as anxious as you are to have a law respecting people.

J. M. LANIER.

Richland.

Legislative Probe Of Georgia Prison Camps Asked By Group Of Citizens

ATLANTA, Jan. 3—(AP)—A legislative investigation of charges of cruelty in Georgia prison camps was requested today by 16 prominent Georgians.

The request was made by mail to incoming legislators. Photographs of alleged torture of prisoners accompanied the requests. The general assembly meets next week.

The committee requesting the investigation says charges against the State's prison camps have been given national publicity and are 'serious enough to justify and demand an investigation so rigorous and impartial as to leave no doubt regarding the facts and to provide an intelligent basis for such reforms as may be found necessary.'

Allegations against the Georgia penal system, the committee says, have been made by John L. Spivak, author of 'Georgia Nigger.' The committee says Spivak 'presents alleged photostatic copies of official prison records, indicating the use of double shackles, racks, barrels and other methods of torture.'

'Until disproved, these allegations constitute a basis for serious concern x x x. Meantime national publicity regarding them has brought the State into grave disrepute.'

Some of Georgia's leaders in religious, educational, political and business life are members of the committee and signed the request.

They included:

Bishop W. N. Ainsworth of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; President Harvey Cox of Emory University; former Gov. Thomas W. Hardwick of Augusta; Col. A. R. Lawton vice-president of the Central of Georgia Railroad; Rabbi David Marx, of Atlanta; Mrs. Virlyn Moore, Methodist superintendent of social service; and Mrs. K. T. Weathersbee, secretary Georgia Humane Society, Atlanta.

Negro on Way to Gang Half Hour After Crime

THOMASVILLE, Ga., Dec. 31.

For getting in touch and getting on the chain gang, a negro named Jerry Wills, of this city, who was caught stealing peaches yesterday morning from a produce truck standing in front of the courthouse here.

When the negro was detected in the act, Gordon N. Davis was called to the scene, arrested, brought to trial, plead guilty and Judge Roscoe Luke, of the Thomasville city court, sentenced him to serve six months on the chain gang. The theft was committed at 10 o'clock and at 10:30 he was on his way to the gang, with no complaint to make of unnecessary delays in court procedure.

Investigating State Prisons

Two eminent Macon men, Bishop W. N. Ainsworth and Dr. Ed. F. Cook, are members of a committee which is asking the legislature to make an investigation of prison conditions in the state, as a result of criticisms which have been levelled for several years, particularly in the past few months in the Spivak book and in the Burns case.

The committee hopes to secure an investigation of prison conditions generally and local investigations of chain gang conditions. The general investigation would be made by the legislature, or at its direction.

We have been touching and running away from a real investigation of prison conditions for a number of years. The agitation of two or three years ago led to the purchase of the new site in Tattnall county, upon which it is presumed a new prison will soon rise. But little or nothing has been done about chain gangs and they continue to get into the newspapers unfavorably. It is not such cases as the Burns episode which disturb Georgians. It is stories of cruelty and brutality such as recently came out of the Spalding county camp and out of the North Georgia camp where guards shot down a prisoner.

Every legislature makes its investigation of prison conditions. Some of those studies have been excellent and the reports highly praiseworthy, only to be filed in the state archives and buried under mounds of dust. Some of the investigations have been mere junkets. Let us get around from camp

to camp and let prison conditions or parade. The reports are never obtained that way. Nor grand juries, with their coming advertising get to the bottom of the chain gang conditions.

We should like to see an investigation made but we should not like to see it made wholly by legislators. We should like to see the legislature provide for the appointment of a commission of eminent Georgians, some members of the legislature, both to make an investigation of chain gang conditions and to work out a solution of our problem to submit to the legislature. Such a solution would suggest a prison system to suit our needs and our

finances and to accord with the most humane and enlightened thought. It would suggest what should be done about state prisoners farmed out to the counties and about misdemeanor prisoners. It ought to be broad enough in its scope to comprehend the tie-up between road fund expenditures and the chain gang system.

Such a commission ought to be composed of men of many professions and many minds and free from political affiliations which would destroy its work.

FACT-TWISTING

In protesting the "brutal" Georgia penal system, an organizer of the International Labor Defense in a letter to The Macon Telegraph refers to the happenings in Tallapoosa County. He writes:

In the sister State of Alabama we see that the murder of Negro sharecroppers by deputy sheriffs for resisting the taking away of one man's last means of subsistence was so indefensible that they could not even raise a posse of white workers and farmers from Tuscaloosa County. They had to get "sheriffs and deputies from neighboring counties." (See Montgomery Advertiser of Dec. 21, 1932.)

This is gross misrepresentation.

The Advertiser's news columns, while carefully presenting both sides of the Tallapoosa County (not Tuscaloosa) trouble did not say that "it was necessary to get sheriffs and deputies from other counties because a posse of white workers and farmers could not be raised."

As a matter of record the "man's last means of subsistence" was not taken from him.

The Alabama case, of course, has nothing in common with a protest against the Georgia chain gang system. There is no connection between them.

The International Labor Defense should know full well that such fact-twisting will only weaken its case.

But the organization cares nothing for actual reform.

It wishes only to cry "reform," so that its sinister political ends may be attained.

The ILD likes noise. It likes noise more than it cares for justice, truth or common decency.

TWO WARDENS FILE BURNS FILM SUITS

\$2,000,000 Damages Sought by Troup, Campbell County Officials.

Two of the three damage suits expected to be filed in connection with the picturization of Robert Elliott Burns' book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang," were filed Thursday in the city court. Both plaintiffs, Warden J. Harold Hardy, of the Troup county chain gang, from which Burns made his second escape, and Paul Phillips, warden of the old Campbell county gang, asked personal damages totaling \$1,000,000 each. The third suit is expected to be filed on behalf of Judge Vivian L. Stanley of the Georgia prison commission. Assistant Attorney-General John I. Kelley said Thursday that he would file the suit as soon as he returns to private practice next Tuesday.

The Hardy and Phillips suits were filed by Allen Post of the law firm of Howell, Heyman & Bolding. J. R. Terrell & Son of Greenville and Branch and Howard of Atlanta will be associated with Mr. Kelley in the Stanley suit.

The petitions of Hardy and Phillips point out that there were characters in the picture made from Burns' book which were made to resemble them and put them in the light of officials who treated the prisoners under their care in a cruel and inhuman manner.

Warner Brothers, Inc., and the Vitaphone Corporation, producers of the film, and the Vitagraph Company, Inc., its distributors, were named defendants in both actions.

The Troup warden and the former Campbell warden charge that they have suffered damages as a result of the film, which was shown at the Georgia theater here and in other cities in this state.

Burns was convicted in Atlanta in 1921 of highway robbery. He was sentenced to serve from six to 10 years on the chain gang but escaped after serving only a few months. He was captured in 1929 and returned to prison only to escape a second time in September of 1930. During his period of hiding he wrote a book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang," from which the feature picture was made. Since release of the film, Burns has been arrested in Newark, N. J., but he won his freedom when Governor A. Harry Moore of that state refused to honor Georgia's request for his extradition.

Two Chaingang Wardens Suing Film Companies

ATLANTA, Jan. 5—(AP)—Two Georgia chaingang wardens today filed suit for \$1,000,000 each against motion picture companies producing and distributing the film "I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang," made from the book of a similar title by Robert Elliott Burns, fugitive from Georgia.

The suits named Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., the Vitaphone Corporation and Vitagraph, Inc., and were filed by Harold Hardy, warden of the Troup county chaingang from which Burns made his last escape, and Warden Paul Phillips of the Campbell County chaingang at the time he escaped the first time.

Hardy with Assistant Attorney General John I. Kelley, who has since tendered his resignation from that office, recently sought Burns's extradition from New Jersey to complete the service of a sentence for a holdup here more than 10 years ago. Governor Harry Moore of New Jersey declined to grant his return. Kelley is one of the attorneys for Hardy in the suits.

Filed in city court, the suits probably will come up for hearing at the March term.

The suits were filed separately, both naming the same companies and containing much the same references to the book and the film.

Hardy's petition charged that by inuendo the picture, which gave another name for the camp depicted the one over which he had charge. "Petitioner," the suit read, "was never guilty of such conduct as attributed to him in said moving picture nor did he permit such conduct in his said camp. Said representations concerning the conduct of petitioner constitute a wilful and deliberate defamation."

Phillips in his suit entered a blanket denial to references he claims were made to his camp regarding conditions including alleged whippings, poor food, use of firearms by guards, and unusual forms of punishment.

PRISON PROBE ASKED

During the past several months the condition of Georgia prisons received considerable publicity throughout the country. This was made more so by the Spivak's charge in his publication, the "Georgia Nigger," the name which is so detestable. In this book charges of the most serious kind are made against the state, some of them inhumane beyond description. These charges have aroused the indignation of many and are reflecting upon Georgia as nothing else has done in more recent years. The recent refusal of the Governor of New Jersey to grant the request of Gov. Russell for the return of an escaped convict has but added to the fuel, along with the statement of this escape, relative to his treatment while incarcerated. At other periods articles have been published describing certain phases of cruelties inflicted upon prisoners with but passing attention. Visitors from other states traveling our highways have witnessed prison scenes and have condemned Georgia in no uncertain terms. All of these have received simply a blanket denial and without the least improvement, the same condition being continued with severer punishment inflicted by a class of guards totally unfit for their responsible charge. The state may have regulations relative to the care of all convicts, forbidding inhuman treatment, but unless a better type of guards are secured matters not how humane the rules may be, they will never be enforced unless some one is nearby to compel these guards to comply therewith. Chatham county handles as many prisoners as any other county in the state. The handling of these prisoners is not along the model lines that it should be, but there are but slight complaints, especially from the prisoners. No doubt, there may be isolated incidents, where a guard attempt to inflict summary punishment, but upon a whole they are afraid to do so, because they know the members of the county commissioners will not in any manner permit it. The Chatham county condition could be obtained in other counties if the commissioners would only secure the service of a better class of guards and see that none of the rules are violated.

These recent reports so reflective upon the state, have aroused some of the prominent citizens into action. They are appealing to the legislature to investigate these charges of prison cruelty, and stated that such a probe "will be of genuine service to the state and to a multitude of its helpless wards." As to the charges, these citizens state, that they are "serious enough to just-

ly demand an investigation so vigorous and impartial as to leave no doubt regarding the facts and to provide an intelligent basis for such reforms as may be found necessary." No doubt, the legislature may take cognizance of the presentation of these citizens and order a vigorous probe.

Bishop F. R. Reese of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, Col. A. R. Lawton and Judge S. B. Adams, of this city, are among the ones requesting the probe. These gentlemen are members of the local race relations committee and have very often demonstrated their sense of fair play and desire to see that equal justice is accorded our people.

Georgia Prison Camp Probe Asked in Senate Resolution

27, told county officers who accused him of forging checks totaling \$10,000 against an airline. Thorough investigation of conditions in Georgia prison camps with Searing, alias Lieutenant Walter Ingram, said he himself is a fugitive from a Georgia prison camp to which he was sentenced in Atlanta for forgery, officers said. He said he served time from last May to August, when he escaped in a truck. Searing said he was convicted in Augusta, Ga., last May of forgery and sentenced to two terms on the Forsyth county chain gang.

The only comment by Judge Vivian L. Stanley, state prison commissioner, who has charged that Spivak misrepresented himself to the prison body in order to obtain access to Georgia camps, was that "I would like to get my hands on Mr. Spivak."

Senator Knox's resolution says that the people of Georgia have been subjected to "public scorn and condemnation" as the result of publication of the book, and that "if such conditions are true they should be remedied and those responsible for them punished, and if they are untrue the same should likewise be promptly corrected and repudiated."

The resolution calls for appointment of a committee to include two members of the senate and three members of the house to investigate conditions, the committee to have full power to compel attendance of witnesses under subpoena, interview prisoners and guards, and obtain access to all prison and chain gang records. The committee would report to the next session of the general assembly after its work is completed.

Spivak's book, the resolution says, "purports to reflect conditions in the chain gang camps of the state and recites numerous instances of cruel and inhuman treatment alleged to have been committed against negro inmates."

"Georgia Nigger" was published on the heel of a book by Robert Elliott Burns, escaped convict, who "exposed" conditions in Georgia chain gangs with a vitriolic pen.

BURNS' STORY A "PICNIC" SAYS CAPTURED FUGITIVE

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—(UP) Robert Burns' film story, "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang," is a "Sunday school picnic" compared with actual conditions in Georgia prison camps, Charles Searing Jr.,

The records of the prison commission were not available Wednesday night and Chairman E. L. Rainey said he did not recall Charles Searing Jr.

"He's just another publicity seeker and we will certainly not engage in any transcontinental argument with him," Judge Rainey said. "It is all right if he stays in jail in California. Georgia has no desire for such people. It seems to me that it makes little difference where he is in prison, the chief point being that he is in some jail."

ABILENE, TEX. REPORTER

JAN 13 1933

Georgia Chain Gangs.

Loyal Georgians resent most bitterly the charges and implications contained in the book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chain Gang," and the motion picture based on it. They say the book is a libel on Georgia justice and nowhere near the truth.

True or false, however, Georgia is getting wise to herself, and instead of contenting herself with a flat denial, is preparing to make a thorough investigation of that peculiar institution, the chain gang.

A member of the Georgia senate has introduced a resolution calling for thorough investigation of the charges. His resolution is not based on the chain gang book, but on a book called "Georgia Nigger," which deals with alleged cruelties practiced upon

negro members of the chain gangs.

Florida's chain gang system came in for some very severe criticism not long ago, as a result of revelations at the trial of a prison guard in connection with the death of a convict.

A chain gang is no picnic. In spite of stringent rules and regulations, abuses creep in. Georgia owes it to her self-respect to investigate conditions in her road camps. The people of the state have a right to know whether the recent hullabaloo over chain gang practices is based on fact or fiction.

Wichita Falls, Tex.
TIMES

JAN 13 1933

GEORGIA AND ITS PRISON CAMPS

A resolution for an investigation of Georgia's prison camps has been offered in that state's legislature.

A book, from which a movie was made, "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang," tells of shocking brutality in Georgia penal methods. Another book just published, "Georgia Nigger," deals particularly with the treatment of negro prisoners. The first-mentioned book received much free advertising recently when its author, actually a fugitive, was apprehended in New Jersey, whose governor denied Georgia's request for extradition.

Georgia has let it be known that its feelings are hurt by these writings. The rest of the country, even when it has made allowances for the tendency of writers and scenarists to exaggerate, believes that Georgia tolerates much cruelty in its convict camps. A thorough investigation seems to be in order, with the application of such remedies as are found necessary.

Prison administration is something about which it is difficult to be level-headed. Charges of prison brutality make the average individual's gorge rise as nothing else does, and he is ready to lend a willing ear to the sentimentalists who would make him forget that a prison, after all, is not supposed to be a pleasant place of abode. Between the hard-boiled official who is apt to err on the side of cruelty and the sloppy-minded uplifter who thinks that the state shouldn't do anything to a convict except perhaps remove his tonsils and give him a book to read, it isn't always easy to remember that penitentiaries are for the protection of society, that many of the prisoners are distinctly anti-social and therefore susceptible to no treatment except that which is stern.

Some states have found out how to avoid either extreme. Let us hope that Georgia can do so.

Crime-1933

Illinois.

BRUTALITY OF CHICAGO POLICE DESCRIBED BY NEGRO WORKER

(By a Negro Worker Correspondent.)

CHICAGO, Ill.—On January 27 I hadn't had anything to eat but a cereal. I had been to the charity and they told me they only help married people. I heard of a demonstration by a leaflet given out to everybody on the street. I went to the demonstration.

In about 15 minutes the police attacked the crowd. I turned around to see what was going on, and about 5 well trained policemen had an old man about 40 years old down beating him. I made about 20 steps facing the man and some one hit me on the head and what happened then I don't know.

When I remembered anything I was standing over in front of the charity and a policeman came up to me and knocked me down and told me to get up. Well I was beaten very bad.

I didn't try to get up so he kicked me a few times and hit me with his club and he told me if I don't behave he will kick my damn teeth down my throat. I didn't say anything so he asked me, the third time and when I thought I had better say something I told him I would not do it to please him, so he and another policeman began beating me.

How I got out to the sidewalk I don't know. When I remember anything I was standing there, looking back at the place where we were at first, and saw so many policemen there and no workers. I was bleeding badly and could not see very well. Everything seemed dark to me.

After putting a few of us in the patrol they beat us all the way to the police station and when we got there they jacked us out of the patrol and then they backed us up in a corner and then beat us till they got tired. They broke clubs over our heads.

It don't sound true, but I can rove it by the workers that were with me. A girl by the name of Mae Wonnaker, Henry Cod, S. Hammien and myself. Now this is true. If some one had told me this, I would not believe it, but I saw it for myself.

CHICAGO JUDGE REFUSES TO SEND YOUTH TO LOUISIANA

CHICAGO.—Clifford Jackson, age 14, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Smith, 3800 Rhodes avenue, was discharged Tuesday, May 9, by Judge James A. Fardy of the criminal court of Cook county, in a habeas corpus proceeding brought by Attorney Blaine G. Alston of the law firm of Ellis and Westbrooks, to prevent his extradition to Shreveport, La., on an assault to murder charge.

The case created considerable race and sympathetic sentiment, due to the age of the youth, the indigent circumstances of his parents, and the improbability of his guilt, and as to whether or not he would be given a fair trial if returned to Louisiana.

The habeas corpus proceedings were instituted by Attorney Alston at the request of A. C. MacNeal, president of the Chicago N.A.A.C.P., after the parents had solicited his aid and that of the association in using their influence to prevent the miscarriage of justice.

Jackson, who was born in Shreveport, but who has been living in Chicago with his parents for the past several years, went back to his home town on a visit last July, and it appears from the story that he told his attorney and others, that in April of this year, while in Shreveport, he was picked up by police officers as a suspect on a burglary charge, and after he was severely beaten in an attempt to make him confess, he was placed in the Juvenile Detention home on bread and water and without any other food.

Escaped Jail

On or about April 3, while the guard, a Rev. J. W. Wyn, white, was opening the door of his cell to give him a whipping with a piece of rubber hose, he suddenly bolted through the door, knocking the guard down and made his escape and caught a freight train for Chicago. He stated that he made no intentional assault upon the guard, and that from a letter he received from relatives, the guard only had a few minor scratches up-

on his body, and that the charge of assault to murder was bolstered up by the authorities in Shreveport to make out an extraditable offense.

The state of Louisiana, through its governor, made requisition upon Governor Henry Horner of this state for the return of Jackson to that state, as a fugitive from justice, whereupon after receiving the requisition together with a copy of the information and affidavit filed in Caddo parish, Louisiana, purporting to charge him with a crime, Governor Horner issued a fugitive warrant, which was sent to the police department of Chicago, and later placed in the hands of Officer Oscar Ridley for the arrest of Jackson.

Officer Oscar Ridley, husband of the cashier of the Chicago Defender, made the arrest and took Jackson into custody, and later he was transferred to the Juvenile court before Judge Mary L. Bartelme, who declined jurisdiction, and ordered him taken to the criminal court.

Jackson Discharged

Several caucuses were held between MacNeal and Attorney Alston and several other attorneys connected with the N.A.A.C.P., as to the feasibility of making an appeal in behalf of Jackson direct to Governor Horner, but the hearing on the writ having been set by Judge Fardy to be disposed of on May 9, it was decided that the time was too limited.

Attorney Alston sent a telegram to the secretary of state to forward immediately photostatic copies of all documents that were filed with the Governor of Illinois by the Governor of Louisiana, in order that he might inspect them and determine whether they were legal-ly sufficient to warrant the issuance of the fugitive warrant. These documents were received by return mail and after a careful inspection of same, Attorney Alston decided that there was insufficient evidence even under the laws of Louisiana to charge a crime in that state.

It appeared that the documents were not properly authenticated by the Governor of Louisiana and the judge who issued the warrant for

Jackson's arrest in Caddo parish, and these points were stressed by counsel in his argument before Judge Fardy. Attorney Alston pointed out to the court that complaint filed was made by one party and sworn to by another, and that no crime was charged against Jackson. He cited a number of Louisiana and United States reports and decisions which supported his contention. He was opposed by Assistant State Attorneys Walter L. McCoy and Cunningham, who argued that Jackson should be returned to Louisiana, but Judge Fardy elected to follow the law, as is his known custom, and entered his order of discharge of Jackson.

Attorney Alston was ably assisted by Attorneys Irvin C. Mollison and Graham T. Perry of the N.A.A.C.P.

NEGROES WERE CONTINUE TO BID FOR NATION'S 1933 HIGHEST MURDER RATE

Two East Side Men, in Family Quarrel over Employment,
Fight Savage Duel with Knives; One Dead

The horny old commonplace that history repeats its self seems in a fair way of becoming an established fact as colored Indianapolis continues to evince a determination to recapture the lawlessness of the days of barbarism.

In a city that boasts nearly two hundred churches, numerous educational opportunities of easy access, and a civic pride that fondly caresses "the Crossroads of America", the gaunt specter of murder runs rampant obviously at will.

The city's latest bid for the country's highest "murder" rate emerged from a savage duel fought by two men last Thursday.

Isaac Lowery, 72, was mortally wounded in the bloody knife battle at his home, 2244 Martindale Ave. by his step son, Frazier Campbell, 50, 2248 N. Dearborn street, following an argument as to who was the boss of the house. He died a short time after reaching the City hospital where he was rushed by police.

The victor, Campbell, severely lacerated by the victim, was also treated at the hospital, and later arrested and held on a charge of murder.

Irene Crane, 19, 2220 Sheldon street, and Stella Evans, sister of the man charged with the murder, were questioned by police as witnesses.

Campbell, the witnesses old police, came to his step-father's house on the day of the murder and demanded to know whether the elder man was seeking to find work, adding that his mother, the dead man's wife, Mrs. Ada Lowery, worked every day for a living to support the family.

Lowery, they said, replied that he was the boss and would run the house to suit himself. The other man, so the story goes, becoming enraged, threw a coffee pot at the older man's head, who, in dodging the missile, fell upon the floor.

As he rose, he brandished a long rusty corn knife with which he made violent thrusts at the more agile Campbell.

Campbell, so police were told, was cut over the left eye and on the

hand before he managed to inflict upon Lowery the three deep knife wounds in the chest and abdomen, that resulted in his death.

Campbell, dripping with blood, was arrested by radio patrolmen who found him in the office of Dr. Johnson, 1832½ Martindale avenue. Thirteen stitches were required to close his wounds.

King & King were in charge.

Survivors are, a wife, Mrs. Ada Lowery, a daughter and a granddaughter.

Mr. Lowry was known to many East Side residents. For more than half of the twenty years of his residence in this city, he served as democratic sheriff of the Fourth precinct of the Second ward. Up until two years ago, he operated a trucking transfer and hauling business.

INDIANAPOLIS NEGRO MURDER RATE MOUNTS TO 19 OUT OF CITY TOTAL OF 34 FOR YEAR

Colored Indianapolis, after a respite of several weeks has obviously relapsed into another exhibition of irrepressible savagery, and as a consequence has tossed into the hopper of lawlessness the nineteenth murder for Negroes out of a total of thirty-four for the whole city, during the current year.

Argument over the payment of two water bills for two pieces of property owned jointly by two brothers is said to have led to the slaying with a knife of John Johnson, 46, 1631 Martindale avenue by Herbert Johnson, 44, 1662 Martindale avenue Wednesday night.

John was cut in the stomach, on the hip and left arm by his brother, Herbert. John's wife, Mrs. Eva Johnson, 38, told police. Both were taken to the City hospital in the ambulance. John died three hours later, shortly after midnight.

Herbert is being held on a charge of murder.

Before he died, John told police that his brother came to his home and in the course of an argument concerning water bills for the properties, 1662 and 1664 Martindale avenue owned jointly by the brothers, he struck his brother with a flashlight after the latter had cursed him. Mrs. Johnson said the two men engaged in a savage struggle, clinched and when she separated them, she discovered her husband had been cut.

Investigation is being made by Detectives Holt and White.

John Johnson is survived, beside a wife, by a step-daughter, Miss Helen Rhodes; a mother, Mrs. Mattie Johnson.

Crime - 1933

Louisiana

Brutal New Orleans Cops Convicted: Face Terms

Courier 6-10-33 Pittsburgh, Pa.
**Merciless Beating of 15-Year-Old Youth and Other
Atrocities By White Cops Are Avenged When District
Attorney Secures Conviction.**

NEW ORLEANS, La., June 8—(ANP)—After many attempts to successfully prosecute and find guilty policemen who flagrantly beat and kill prisoners in this city, the District Attorney's office here has at last achieved its objectives when two policemen were convicted.

The merciless beating of James Mims, 15-year-old boy, by two city detectives, Louis Mar-ness stand gave conflicting testimony and Thomas Whalen on the money.

night of March 16, when Mims was taken for a ride and "given the torney was evinced in that al-works," resulted in the arrest of though there was quite a few col-the policemen. Mims' body was ex-ored witnesses available, he chose amined by a physician Dr. James not to call upon them, rather pre-A. Hardin, and his diagnosis re-ferring the testimony of the whites vealed that the youth was suffering which he knew would outweigh from multiple contusions and abra-the testimony of the defense com-sions which literally covered hising largely from character witness-body. es. Judge Henriques deferred the

The various social agencies in passing of sentence until next the city were precipitated to action week. He found the two detectives by the tireless exertion of Mrs. guilty on the testimony as present-Naomi K. Evans, executive secre-ed by Miss S. Cahn, Dr. James A. tary of the Sylvania F. Williams, Hardin and Miss Mildred Towles. community center and her associ-ate worker, Miss Mildred Towles.

It was with difficulty that the district attorney's office would accept the charges against the two torturers, but the persistancy of the agencies coupled with the de-and of civic organizations finally forced the policemen to trial.

The case was tried in Criminal Judge Henriques' court, and the state was represented by District Attorney Eugene S. Stanley. The defense summoned ore than 70 witnesses to testify in behalf of the accused detectives, whereas the plaintiff called not more than 20. Prejudicial atmosphere filled the court room and the judge on one occasion dismissed from his court four white men, one of whom had remarked, "the idea of prosecuting a white man for beating a 'Nigger'."

Although the beating occurred more than two months ago during which time the two detectives have had ample time to "frame-up" they nevertheless on occupying the wit-

Crime-1933

Maryland

Faces Electric Chair for Third Time Since 1931

ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 14.—When the court of appeals affirmed the death sentence pronounced on Euel Lee (Orphan Jones) by the Baltimore county circuit court for the alleged murder of Green K. Davis of Taylorsville, the International Labor Defense lost a long legal battle that has been strewn through the Maryland courts for the life of its client.

In affirming the decision the court of appeals, in an opinion written by Associate Judge J. L. L. Sloan and concurred in by Chief Justice Carroll T. Bond and Associate Judges Hammond Urner, William Adkins and F. Neal Parke, held that, "finding no error in the rulings of the trial court on the challenge to the panel of 200 from which the petit jury was drawn, on the motion for a continuance and on the examination of the jurors on their voir dire, the judgment appealed should be affirmed."

Was Third Appeal

This was the third appeal entered by the I. L. D., defense lawyers, since Lee's arrest in October, 1931, for an alleged murder in the eastern shore town. A suggestion for removal was made in the circuit court for Worcester county by Lee, and that court removed the case to Dorchester county. This order subsequently was stricken out, due to an opinion of the appellate court following Lee's first appeal. The defense lawyers held that he could not get a fair trial on the eastern shore, and in that conclusion the court of appeals concurred. The case was then taken to Baltimore county. He was tried at Towson Jan. 20, 1932, found guilty, and on Jan. 28 sentenced to death.

The defense has 30 days in which to file a motion for reargument, and if that is not done, or if it is not granted by the court, a mandate will be sent to the Baltimore county court at the expiration of that period officially notifying it of the decision.

AWAIT VERDICT IN ANNAPOLIS APPEAL RIOT

Seven Men Accused of
Assault after Shore
Demonstration.

SAYS COPS WERE
INSTIGATORS

Officer Tells How He
Blackjacked Men.

BULLETIN

ANNAPOLIS—The seven men charged with assaulting Officer J. H. Holliday were found guilty by a jury before Judge Nicholas H. Green, in the circuit court, late Thursday. Sentence is to be imposed today (Friday).

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The state rested its case with the testimony of Police Commissioner Myers at

noon, Thursday, against the seven men charged with assault on an officer and creating a disturbance following the Jim-Crow repeal hearing on March 6.

Just before a recess, Defense Attorney Bernard Ades, of Euel Lee fame, introduced Louis Berger, I.L.D. secretary, as the defense's first witness. With only 10 such witnesses to be produced, it was thought that the jury would receive the case before night.

The men were arrested after a demonstration around the state house, in which they demanded the repeal of the Jim-Crow law, as they were awaiting a bus to take them to Baltimore.

One day and a half was consumed by the prosecution in attempts to prove that the defendants had assaulted John B. Holliday in a slugfest between officer and the defendants.

The defendants are: James Sales, Eugene Williams, John Hutchins, Wilbert Davis, Louis Berger, Peter Garnett, and John McCawley, the latter three white, all of Baltimore.

Commissioner Myers testified that he witnessed the group parading around the state house and making speeches.

Ordered out of Town

"I told officers not to bother them," he declared, "if they made no more disturbance than they were making, but to see that they got out of town."

He then related that the group marched to the bus two by two, headed by Officer Holliday. He also detailed how the men of the force present were arranged.

"I was standing in the rear of the bus," he continued, "watching the crowd get on, when I saw Officer Holliday's hat up in the air about 17 inches.

"I worked my way through the crowd to get up near the door," he continued. "I saw McCawley grab Officer Holliday in the collar from the rear, but I could not see whether his fist was drawn up because his body was between us."

Although the testimony was conflicting, several officers had previously stated that McCawley had drawn back his fist.

"I saw," continued the commissioner, "Officer Musterman reach over somebody and strike him. As he reeled around I struck him with my blackjack. As McCawley went down, Hutchins struck me in the chest. As Hutchins started to rush

into the bus, I struck him. He grabbed the door and closed it."

The commissioner testified further that when the occupants of the bus refused to open the door, he ordered an officer to break the glass door. Three policemen were then ordered to drive it to the police station where the occupants were held for "investigation."

Mr. Ades so badly confused the commissioner when he cross-examined him as to why a committee of the paraders had not been allowed to enter the state house that the judge had to come to his (the commissioner's) rescue.

"By what authority did you keep them out of the state house?" queried Mr. Ades.

"By the executive officer of the State of Maryland," was the reply.

In an exchange, Mr. Ades tried to pin him to say the governor initiated the order. Prosecutor Brady strenuously objected and the court held the commissioner need not answer the question.

Placed on the stand, Mr. Berger upturned the testimony of the state witnesses. He testified that after being herded into the bus and a patrol wagon, they were hurried on to the station house.

There, he said, those who had been injured (by the blows of the blackjacks, billies, or the shattered glass) had charges placed against them. Policemen on the stand identified one or more of the defendants as the ones they recognized in the melee.

Says Police Started it

Mr. Berger in describing the melee, said:

"A number of the committee were in the bus. We were waiting for the bus driver to take us back to Baltimore. Myself and four others (I was behind the others) decided we would take our seats inside to wait for the driver. We had not seen any police.

"Suddenly," he continued, "Holliday and Myers came around the bus. Holliday started to reach for James Sales as he was about to enter the bus. Immediately I felt somebody strike me a blow on the back of the head. I went down to the ground and stayed there for several minutes. Officer Myers picked me up and held on to me."

Cross-examined as to why he thought Sales should be attacked, Mr. Berger declared, "I think he attacked Sales just to give an excuse for raising a disturbance, for attacking us."

Officer Shockley, on the witness

stand, previously, delighted in telling how he "dropped" this "black one" or that "real black one there" (referring to Solomon and Davis) with his blackjack.

He told about observing the crowd distance away and going back to see what it was all about.

"I was there about five minutes," he said, "when someone said 'Somebody has hit Holliday.' I saw him (Solomon) start to hit him with his fist. I dropped him with my blackjack."

"That real black fellow there (Davis) struck at him. I dropped him." At each opportunity during the direct and cross-examination Shockley told of his "dropping" ability.

VIRGINIA NEGRO HELD IN BRECKING OF TRAIN

SALISBURY, Md., Aug. 19.—(A)—A negro laborer, who gave his name as William Allen, of Richmond, Va., was arrested here in connection with the wreck of a Pennsylvania railroad passenger train, "The Cavalier," last Saturday.

BALTIMORE, MD.

EVENING SUN

SEP 21 1933

Proscription By Whites Blamed For
High Criminality Among Negroes
To THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING SUN.—Sir: Much is being said in the journals of the country with respect to the excessive ratio of criminality among Negroes. Thirty years ago Professor Keatling, a talented Negro educator, delivered an address in this city before a color organization, "The Scientific and Sociological Society of Baltimore," and an extract from his address on that occasion is pertinent in the present times. Among other things he said:

The difference between the criminal tendencies of the Negro and of the rest of the nation is the result of the different social treatment of the two classes and not the result of race endowment. If the Negro could escape segregation, proscription and discrimination as the foreigner, on an equal social plane, escape these detriments, he would soon, like the foreigner, be lost in the common excellencies and shortcomings of the body politic, being no better, no worse. But so long as the national attitude toward the Negro is a criminal one, that it is a breaker of the Divine law of benevolence and fair play, just so long will society be responsible for that excess of criminality dependent upon inferior association, suggestion and example.

I solemnly charge the American people, North and South alike, as the largest maker of criminal Negroes I do not believe that they intend it so, for they do not; their conscious purpose is simply to hold him an underling, dependent upon national grace for whatever immunities he may enjoy. But things have their natural, not their intended effect and to repress, restrict and condemn the natural and spontaneous growth of men who have it in them to grow, is not to make underlings so surely as to make remonstrants, first of all, and revolters at last.

The phenomenon of Negro crime in excess of the proper ratio belonging to his numbers is the present manifestation of

of crime to a people.

The chief matrix of crime among Negroes lies in the social, religious, political and economic repression practiced against them. Jamaica furnishes proof of what just administration and a fraternal spirit will do to bring harmony and a minimum

GEORGE F. BRAGG, JR.
Baltimore, Sept. 16.

Crime - 1933

KIDNAPPERS SEIZED,

\$60,000 RECOVERED;

CHILD AIDS POLICE

2 HELD IN M'MATH CASE

Kenneth Buck, Cape Cod
der, Led Plot; Brother,
Cyril, 'Contact Man.'

June 5-7-33
BOTH IN DEAL ON BOAT
new York
Break' Follows Grilling Through
Friday Night—All of Ransom
Found in Kenneth's Home.

PEGGY IDENTIFIES AUTO

Her 3-Day Imprisonment in
Hut, Getting Money From
Detroit Revealed.

By The Associated Press.
HARWICHPORT, Mass., May 6.—
Two Cape Cod brothers, an unem-
ployed chauffeur and a garage me-
chanic, were seized for the kid-
napping of 10-year-old Margaret Mc-
Math and the ransom money, \$60,-
000 in currency, was recovered today
in a startling denouement of the
abduction.
Upon the chauffeur, Kenneth
Buck, 30, police laid the origin and
execution of the plot by which the
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil C.
McMath, former Detroit residents,
was lured from her schoolroom here
Tuesday and held for \$60,000 ran-
som.

Massachusetts.

led police to the solution. Then
with startling speed the case moved
to its denouement.

Police officers suddenly left the
Coast Guard base at Woods Hole,
where they had spent the night with
their charges. They drove back
here and returned Mr. McMath and
Mr. Lee to their homes. A group
of detectives accompanied Cyril to
his mother's home, across Miles
Street from his own residence. There he kept her "all that night
and Wednesday, and Wednesday
night and Thursday and part of
Thursday night."

These Kenneth joined them. They
went to the McMath home. Peggy
appeared in the party. A few min-
utes later they were back at the
Buck house.

Blue Sedan Brought to House.
Suddenly a blue sedan swung into
the yard. It was a blue sedan which
had pulled up before the Harwich
Centre School Tuesday and bore the
girl away. Daniel G. Needham,
Massachusetts Commissioner of
Public Safety and directing head of
the investigation, pointed to the
car.

"Peggy, I want you to look this
car over and see if this is the one,"
he said.
Peggy looked and remained silent.
A moment later the two brothers
were under arrest. Tonight they
were in the Barnstable Jail.

It was a strange story which fi-
nally took form as the loose ends
were gathered together from the
multiplicity of sources—the facts
gathered by the police, the state-
ments grudgingly pulled from the
men under arrest, Peggy McMath's
straightforward and simple story
of her experiences, and from others
who played brief parts in the four-
days' drama.

It reached its climax in the state-
ments of Commissioner Needham
and State Detective Ernest Brad-
ford, to whom the Commissioner
paid high tribute for his share in
solving the mystery, along with
other State police officers.

The younger prisoner is married
and the father of a child. He has
been out of work for some time,
police said, and needed money.
His brother, Cyril, they said, was
about to lose his home. He, too,
is married, but has no children.
Plotting Laid to Kenneth Buck.
The plot, police said, germinated
in the brain of the younger man.
He, the officers said, planned it
and, they believe, executed it.

Tuesday afternoon two telephone
calls paved the way for the kid-
napping. One was to the McMath
home and asked that the telephone
receiver be left off ten minutes
while the telephone line was being
tested. The other was to the school
in which Peggy was a pupil. The
other principals in the case, Mr.
McMath and Mr. Lee among them,
he had undergone an all-night ex-
amination by police. It was the
long and wearing interrogation
which brought the "break" that
led to the solution. Then
Peggy herself.
"We drove along about ten min-
utes to a small road that ended in
a cranberry bog," she said. "I
never was there before. He told
me to get into the back seat and
said, 'If you make any noise I'll
chloroform you.'"
At the cranberry bog her captor
bound her and left her for "a long
time." Then a man came and
walked her "across lots" to a
building.
There he kept her "all that night
and Wednesday, and Wednesday
night and Thursday and part of
Thursday night."

Left Alone During Daylight.

"I was all alone during the day-
light," the girl went on, "but at
night the same man came and
brought me a ham sandwich and
some milk.
"He always talked in a whisper-
y voice and said he was my friend."
He told me not to make any
noise, because the gang was around
all the time and he was trying to
get me back to my mother."
In the meantime the moves were
made to collect the ransom.

Wednesday the first contact was
established between the parents
and the kidnappers. It was through
Cyril Buck. He visited William
Lee, Mr. McMath's business asso-
ciate, and told him the kidnappers
had communicated with him. Then
word was passed to the parents, and
a demand made for proof.

Samples of the child's handwrit-
ing were produced. Cyril commu-
icated the demand for \$60,000.
Negotiations followed between
Harwichport and Detroit. A Cape
Cott banker, Ralph Snow, head of
Cape Cod Savings Bank, appeared
in the case, although he said to-
day, "I want to make it clear that
my only connection with this case
was in the transfer of money from
Detroit to Harwich."

Meeting Held on Boat.

The money was left. Again con-
tact was made with Cyril Buck
and the terms of the kidnappers'
offer were set forth. There was
to be a meeting on a boat in the
harbor.

The terms were agreed to and
Mr. McMath and Mr. Lee went
aboard Mr. Lee's yacht Bob in the
harbor almost opposite the McMath
home. Cyril Buck was there and
with him a companion, his face
hidden beneath a hood.

The conditions were that the ran-
som money should be in three
bundles, two of \$10,000 each, the
balance in one bundle. Upon its
payment the child would be turned
over to the father at 3 A. M., but
no effort should be made to trace
the kidnappers for forty-eight
hours.
Mr. McMath agreed. He rowed
ashore and went to his home, where
McMath will verify that. I did a

he divided the money into the
specified packages. Then he re-
turned to the boat and handed it
over.

"I Let Peggy tell what happened
next:

"Thursday night late, he (the
man who had been caring for her)
came and said he was able to take
me back to my father and mother.
He blindfolded me and took me in
the front seat of an auto and we
drove a long way.

"He told me my father was in the
back seat, but I was not to talk to
him. After a while he took off the
blindfold, and I looked around and
my father was in the back seat.

"I got into the seat with my fa-
ther. Cyril Buck was driving and
a man with a hood over his head
was sitting in the front seat beside
him. I think he was the man who
said he was my friend and fed me."

Hooded Man Said to Be Kenneth.
After riding "quite a while" they
reached Wychmere Harbor, where
Mr. Lee's boat floated.

"I got out and we got into a lit-
tle boat and rowed out to the Bob.
The man with the hood told us to
do this."

The man with the hood, police
say, was Kenneth Buck.

"The transfer of the money oc-
curred aboard the boat," Detective
Bradford said, in the police version
"The masked man took the money
to give to some one."

"The man in the mask was Ken-
neth. The masked man said he was
going to give \$50,000 to some one
and was going to keep \$10,000 for him-
self and was going to give \$10,000
to the contact man."

"The contact man returned the
\$10,000 to McMath."
This left \$60,000 in the possession
of the kidnappers, the amount re-
covered today.

Police on Trail Early Friday.

Commissioner Needham learned
that something had happened dur-
ing the morning hours yesterday.
He also learned of the money and
questioned Mr. Lee. He made ar-
rangements with the Coast Guard,
who had been assisting in the
search, for two boats from the base
at Woods Hole.

Late yesterday afternoon the two
boats appeared in the harbor, one
blocked the entrance and the other
pulled up beside Mr. Lee's boat.

The officers boarded the craft
and found Mr. McMath, Peggy,
Cyril Buck and Harold Sawyer, an
associate of Mr. Lee and Mr. Mc-
Math in the boat business, who had
been with Mr. McMath during the
night.

The party then went to Woods
Hole, where the all-night question-
ing followed, with the return of the
child and party here today and the subse-
quent rapid developments.

After the arrest of the two men
Cyril Buck expressed the ut-
most confidence in the innocence of
his husband, asserting that she
balance in one bundle. Upon its
payment the child would be turned
over to the father at 3 A. M., but
absent from home since Tues-
day.

Cyril Buck was quoted by Gen-
eral Needham, as saying:
"I brought the child back myself.
McMath will verify that. I did a

big job and I suppose I'll have to pay for it."

In explaining how the "break" came, General Needham said: Finally [during the night's examination] as State Detective John Stokes was questioning him, Cyril remarked:

"Well, I'm on a spot either way. If I take the arp, that will end it, won't it?"

Plan to Track Down "Every One."

"I told him that it would not that regardless, we would keep after it until we tracked down every one involved. Cyril then told his story."

It was after the men had been taken to the old Barnstable Courthouse by four detectives that the money was recovered. The brothers were taken back to Kenneth Buck's house and the detective asked for the money. At first, they said, \$10,000 was produced by Mrs. Kenneth Buck. Then the men were taken upstairs to a bedroom and from a closet, close to the ceiling, a tin can was removed and in it \$46,000 was found. The remaining \$4,000 was found loose.

General Needham described the arrest of the two men as "a clean-up of the case."

"I am delighted to announce," he said, "the capture of two criminals involved in the most spectacular crime in the history of Massachusetts."

"Full and complete credit for this wonderful job should be given to Lieutenant Detective Ernest Bradford, who had charge of the investigation, and Lieutenant Dedown the crimes as originally reported by detectives Sherlock, Stokes, Ferrarias, Barrett and Brouillard."

Mrs. McMath's Father Comes Out.

DETROIT, May 6 (AP).—Still reticent about what part, if any, he played in bringing about the release of his granddaughter, Margaret McMath in Harwichport, Mass., William R. Kales, Detroit industrialist, was leaving today to join the family on Cape Cod.

His departure, it was learned, was in response to another telephone message this morning from his daughter, Mrs. Neil C. McMath. In a message last night, Mrs. McMath had told him "we are all very happy." He did not disclose the conversation he had with her this morning.

Mr. Kales at first planned to leave here by plane for the East, but weather conditions prevented.

Francis C. McMath, father of Neil McMath, said he knew nothing about the money paid as ransom, which was sent from Detroit.

Penalty May Be 25 Years in Jail.

BOSTON, May 6 (AP).—While the Massachusetts penalties for kidnapping are not so severe as those of some other States, they are sufficiently stern to deter most prospective abductors.

For kidnapping in which the element of extortion enters the penalty

is twenty-five years at hard labor. Where there is no attempt to extort, the law provides ten years at hard labor and fine of \$1,000.

BOSTON, MASS.

HERALD

MAY 12 1933

THE "NEGRO" KIDNAPPER

To the Editor of The Herald:

One wonders how many of the millions who read with horror of the kidnapping of Peggy McMath by a "Negro" chauffeur absorbed sufficiently the subsequent revelation that it was a white

man with blackened skin who was the criminal. All of the news accounts have seen of the arrest of the kidnappers told how he had blackened his face with burnt cork; but many of the original headlines telling of the abduction said, \$10,000 was produced by Mrs. Kenneth Buck. Then the men were taken upstairs to a bedroom and from a closet, close to the ceiling, a tin can was removed and in it \$46,000 was found. The remaining \$4,000 was found loose.

General Needham described the arrest of the two men as "a clean-up of the case."

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"Full and complete credit for this wonderful job should be given to Lieutenant Detective Ernest Bradford, who had charge of the investigation, and Lieutenant Dedown the crimes as originally reported by detectives Sherlock, Stokes, Ferrarias, Barrett and Brouillard."

American of Nordic ancestry.

Prejudice is hard to down. Whether an alien or the son of an alien commits a crime it is held against his whole race. When a native American commits a crime, the racial aspect is not considered at all. It does not help in the study of crime to harbor such mistaken grievances. No race has a monopoly of crime or criminals. Some of the newer immigrant races have contributed more than others to the crime quota, but all races, old or new have a share.

None of us, whatever our ancestry can afford to point fingers and call names. The whole history of the human race is proof of this fact. When Kenneth Buck blacked his face with burnt cork he may have done so only as a matter of disguise, but he did add some fuel to the flames of race hatred, and many persons will remember quite mistakenly, that Peggy McMath was kidnapped by a Negro long after they have forgotten other details of the crime.

THIS CLIPPING FROM THE

FREE PRESS

VENTURA, CALIF.

MAY 22 1933

A Novelist's View

WALTER WHITE, Negro novelist, wonders "how many of the millions who read with horror of the kidnapping of Peggy McMath by a 'Negro' chauffeur absorbed sufficiently the subsequent revelation that it was a white man with blackened skin who was the criminal."

"As we are a nation of headline readers, and as many of us form our opinions through hasty consumption of scareheads without taking the trouble to read the stories below them," says Mr. White, "I think it reveals in dramatic fashion how often Negroes unjustly are accused of crime. Does not the McMath case put an added responsibility upon us all to refrain from hasty conclusions when Negroes and members of other minority groups are thus accused?"

Mr. White, who is a distinguished member of his race, has touched a vital point all Americans would do well to ponder. In some sections of the South, such a report as the first news that a "Negro" was the kidnaper of the Cape Cod child, might have aroused a mob to vent its fury against innocent

suspects.

THE WHITE MAN IN BLACKFACE.

When news of the kidnapping of 10-year-old Peggy McMath first broke, the public was told in large headlines by the daily press that a Negro was implicated in the crime. Several suspects were arrested but released upon furnishing alibis. Since the child has been returned to her Harwich Port, Mass., home, the arrest of Kenneth and Cyril Buck, white automobile mechanics, and the recovery of the \$60,000 ransom money, it has come to light that no Negro figured in the dastardly deed. In his confession, Kenneth Buck relates that he blackened his face with cork, donned long white gloves and enacted the role of a colored chauffeur.

Too many unprincipled white people, bent on committing crime, are blackening up nowadays to hide their identity and throw the onus on innocent colored people. It is a low, mean, contemptible trick and action should be taken by members of the race to put a stop to this vicious practice. Let them join in a movement calling for the enactment of legislation in the various states which provides for the arrest and punishment of all white lawbreakers who impersonate a Negro to divert suspicion from themselves. As there have been regrettable instances of white women implicating imaginary Negroes in cases demanding the attention of the police and sheriff, laws should be passed to cover this form of libel against the race.

There is nothing more damnable and unfair than to spread lies and rumors about innocent persons or racial groups. In this respect Negroes of America have suffered far more than they have any idea.

Crime-1933

MICHIGAN EXTRADITION REFUSAL DUE TO LACK OF PROPER PAPERS

Governor Comstock Explains He Paid No Attention to Charges of Cruelty

ATLANTA, Jan. 14. (P)—The governor of Georgia says there will be no controversy between him and the governor of Michigan over the extradition of an escaped Georgia prisoner.

Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia announced today that Governor William A. Comstock of Michigan had told him in a telephone conversation he would grant the extradition of Jesse Crawford, Negro fugitive, when the requisition papers met Michigan requirements. Yesterday Governor Comstock declined to honor Georgia's request.

Governor Comstock at Lansing, however, said that "if Governor Talmadge concluded that I had agreed to return Crawford, he evidently misunderstood my statements over long distance telephone this morning."

Comstock said he had merely informed the governor of Georgia that "extradition was denied Crawford yesterday because of the insufficiency of the extradition papers. I did not commit myself nor do I choose to do so whether I shall honor the request of the governor of Georgia if the papers are perfected."

Merits of Case Not Studied
Talmadge said the governor of Michigan "told me that they raised the point about that cruelty business at the hearing but that he paid no attention to it, but did decline extradition because the papers were not in proper form."

"Governor Talmadge was correct when he quoted me as saying that I paid no attention at the hearing to the allegations of brutality in connection with Georgia's treatment of chain prisoners," Comstock said. "I did not consider the merits of the case, but merely the insufficiency of the papers."

After learning that Governor Comstock said the Georgia governor had misunderstood him about granting the extradition when Michigan's requirements were met, Talmadge said only that they would be "no controversy between Governor Comstock and myself."

Crawford Escaped in April
Willis alias Jesse Crawford is wanted in Fulton county for an automobile theft and burglary. Crawford escaped from a Fulton county chain gang camp April 7, 1932, along with three others by cutting a hole through the thick board floor in a corner of their sleeping quarters. He

was serving two sentences, one for auto theft and another for burglary. Governor Comstock in denying extradition followed recommendations of Assistant Attorney General George Murphy, who presided at the hearing at which Crawford's attorneys and one other witness charged that to send him back to Georgia would be to subject him to "inhuman tortures."

Crawford exhibited three scars at the hearing which he said were caused by chains. He said he was fastened in stocks because he was too ill to work and that he was forced to eat and sleep in chains.

Three Fulton county officials, Commissioner Walter C. Hendrix, Dr. W. L. Gilbert, physician and a member of the county board, and A. A. Clarke, Jr., superintendent of county public works, denied there had been any ill treatment of convicts in Fulton county camps.

Governor Talmadge's comment on the Michigan case was made while three officers from Tuscarawas county, Ohio, were asking the extradition of Cleve Robinson, alias "C. and O. Red." Talmadge merely asked if the papers were in proper order and granted the Ohio request. Officers from Ohio said Robinson was wanted at Dover for the axe murder of another Negro.

"One state ought not to turn down a requisition for a fugitive from another. That's bad business," Governor Talmadge said, in granting the Ohio extradition.

In the meantime, Prison Commissioner Vivian Stanley had wired Michigan authorities to re-arrest Crawford, who gained his freedom by habeas corpus after extradition was denied, and officials were preparing new papers to send that would meet Michigan's requirements.

Governor Talmadge this week succeeded Richard B. Russell, Jr., as governor. Russell issued a statement criticizing Governor Moore of New Jersey for denying extradition of Robert Elliott Burns, a Georgia fugitive.

That's Gratitude
DETROIT, Dec. 7 (P)—Jesse Crawford, 20-year-old Negro, for whom Governor William A. Comstock last April refused to grant extradition to Georgia where he was wanted as an escapee from a chain gang, today was found guilty of criminal assault by a recorder's court jury. He will be sentenced next Thursday.

MICHIGAN REFUSES TO RETURN NEGRO TO GEORGIA 'GANG'

Governor Comstock's Action Taken After 'Inhuman Tortures' Charge Is Made by Attorneys; Decision Assailed Here.

STATE IS RECALLED AS SLAVES' HAVEN

Michigan Wants Title of 'Dumping Ground for Georgia Fugitives,' Lawyer for Negro Asserts.

After listening to the charge that Georgia chain gangs inflict "inhuman torture" on their prisoners, Governor William Comstock, of Michigan, Friday refused to honor the requisition of Georgia, seeking the return to Fulton county of Willis Crawford, alias Jesse Crawford, 20-year-old negro, who escaped last April while serving a one-to-three-year term for automobile theft.

The governor of Michigan made his decision after hearing Maurice Sugar, one of the attorneys for the prisoner, assert:

"To those who ask whether Michigan wants to become a dumping ground for prisoners who have escaped from Georgia chain gangs, my answer is 'Yes!'" The attorney added that "Michigan must not become part of a conspiracy to permit the torture of prisoners."

In denying the requisition for extradition of the Georgia negro, the Michigan governor followed the recommendation of George Murphy, assistant attorney-general of Michigan and brother of Mayor Frank Murphy of Detroit, who presided at a hearing at which attorneys for the Georgia

negro fugitive and one other witness charged that to send Crawford back to Georgia would be to subject him to "inhuman tortures."

Hearing of the action of the Michigan governor, A. A. Clarke Jr., superintendent of the Fulton county public works, expressed indignation at the action, and denied that "inhuman" treatment was accorded prisoners on Fulton or other Georgia chain gangs, while Judge Vivian L. Stanley, secretary of the Georgia prison commission, denied the charges made by the attorney representing the fugitive from Georgia. Each protested against the action of the Michigan governor in refusing to honor the requisition of a sovereign state for a convicted felon.

Clarke Denies Charges.

Advised that charges had been made at the extradition hearing that it would be "inhuman torture" to send the negro thief back to Georgia, Superintendent Clarke vigorously denied the quoted testimony in detail and said that only "desperate men" wore chains while serving their terms. These, he explained, were to prevent the desperadoes from escaping. He added that of "more than 1,200 men on Fulton county chain gangs today, less than 50 wear chains at any time."

Both Superintendent Clarke and Judge Stanley expressed surprise that the extradition request for the fugitive Crawford had been turned down by the governor of Michigan. Stanley asserted that various states had different requisition laws and that this fact probably accounted for Michigan's failure to honor the papers from Georgia.

Judge Stanley added he "felt sure" that that was the reason the request for Crawford was denied, and added that "I can't understand any other reason." The prison commission of Georgia, Judge Stanley said, probably would decide on any further action today, but he intimated that properly prepared requisition papers would be prepared and forwarded to Lansing, Mich., for further action by Governor Comstock.

Papers Held Defective.

Assistant Attorney-General Murphy, of Michigan, held that the extradition papers taken to Lansing by three Georgia officers were defective. During the course of the hearing the Georgia officers admitted they had no warrant for arrest of the prisoner, who was being detained by Lansing officers.

The negro fugitive, Crawford, while not admitting formally that he is the chain gang last April, said he had been on a Georgia chain gang and exhibited what were said to be scars on his legs, which he told the Michigan authorities were caused by chains.

Crawford told the officers at the hearing that he had been fastened in stocks because he was too ill to work and claimed that he was compelled to eat and sleep in chains. Maurice Sugar and William V. Banks, attorneys for the prisoner, rebuffed Michigan's part in the flight of slaves from the south in the war days and said that present governmental officials "should live up to this heritage."

Wants To Be "Dumping Ground."

"To those who ask whether Michigan wants to become a dumping ground for prisoners who have escaped from Georgia chain gangs, my answer is, 'Yes,'" Sugar declared. "Michigan must not become part of a conspiracy to permit the torture of prisoners."

The Rev. John H. Bollens, of the Messiah Evangelistic church of Detroit, urged that extradition be denied. Mrs. Ethel Duffy, of Detroit, president of the Evangelical Women's Union of Michigan, attended, but did not speak.

Governor Comstock made no comment in announcing that he would accept Murphy's recommendation and deny extradition.

Crawford was arrested recently in Detroit and identified as the fugitive from Georgia.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
November 14, 1933

PANDERING TO CRIMINALS

THE questionable custom of denying the extradition of criminals because some criticisms have been made of the penal system in the state where the criminal is wanted, is bearing the logical fruit.

Some time ago the governor of Michigan refused to permit a negro fugitive from Georgia to be turned over to Georgia authorities, basing his action upon some technicality when the negro wailed about the condition in Southern convict camps.

Now the negro again is in the toils and, according to police officials, has been guilty of three offenses against the laws of that state. These offenses, it is charged, include larceny in two cases and a capital offense—a criminal assault upon a woman. He has been convicted of the last named charge and also in a larceny case.

Thus Michigan is paying the penalty of harboring a hardened criminal that it should have turned over to the State of Georgia long ago, thus putting the accused where he could do no harm to society and saving Michigan citizens from outrage.

Meanwhile, this questionable practice no doubt has encouraged many other criminals and added to the common disrespect for law and for those charged with its enforcement.

Making it easy for criminals always results in making it hard for society, as the Michigan victims of this Georgia criminal can testify.

Man Who Blamed Wife's Murder On Negro Paid White Man To Kill Her

YPSILANTI, Mich., Sept. 22.—A white man, Fred Roe, who had hired a man to slug his wife with a lead pipe and ~~then~~ ¹³⁻¹⁵ the police that she had been "attacked by a Negro thug," confessed the crime Friday night and was sentenced to life in Jackson prison by Judge George W. Sample in Ann Arbor much to the relief of citizens here.

Considerable race feeling was aroused by Roe's story of his wife's death, but the police of this city are not so color conscious and they picked up suspects black and white. Finally the police arrested Norvell Olett, white, ex-convict who confessed the husband had hired him to commit the brutal crime.

Georgia Negro Fugitive Is Convicted in Detroit

¹²⁻⁸⁻³³
DETROIT, Dec. 7. (AP)—Jesse Crawford, 20-year-old negro, for whom Governor William A. Comstock last spring refused to grant extradition to Georgia where he was wanted as an escape from a chain gang, today was found guilty of criminal assault by a recorders court jury.

He was sentenced to from 10 to 20 years in Marquette state prison.

His Chicago arrest was the first time he had been detained since his escape in Georgia.

Georgia prison officials when apprised of Crawford's sentence said it was to be expected.

"When Michigan turned him loose," said Judge Vivian Stanley, of the state prison commission, "Crawford must have thought that gave him license to do anything he wanted to do in Michigan."

Tom Linder, secretary to Governor Talmadge said "Crawford probably would have been better off in the Georgia gang where he had a short sentence of from one to three years. On the other hand, Georgia may be a lot better off for the negro might have committed the more serious crime when he had completed the term here."

Crime-1933

Jackson, Miss. News
Monday, January 2, 1933

State Hanged 10 In '32

RECORD HUNG UP FOR RECENT YEARS

Year Without Lynchings

Jackson, Amite county negro, at Liberty, for the murder of Bram-

Mississippi legally executed ten lette Bates, farmer.
persons during 1932, a record for October 28—Rodgers Roberts, Ne-
recent years, a summary revealed shoba county negro, at Philadel-
Monday. phia, for the slaying of Miss Jer-
line McNeil, 45.

All were murderers.
Adding significance to the statis- November 18—Robert Woodward
tics was the fact that the 366 days and Will Dixon, Humphreys coun-
of last year passed without a lynching ty negroes, at Cleveland, for the
in the state. murder of Joe Rustici, Silver City
merchant.

Court files disclosed that Missis-
sippi's New Year began with six
persons under death sentence, five
of whom were scheduled to die dur-
ing 1932 but obtained stays of exe-
cution through court procedure. der of William G. Thigpen, farmer.

Cause for the unusually high December 1—W. R. (Boss) Weath-
number of executions, in the opin-
erford, Lamar county, at Purvis, for
ion of one close observer, was not the murder of John Dearman.
so much an increase in the state's Under death sentence are: Paul
already high homicide rate over Wexler, Hattiesburg youth, and An-
former years, but the recognizance drew Prince, negro, for the murder
of the serious situation by citizen of J. L. Odom, Forrest county fill-
who translated it into actioning station operator; Fritz Cole,
through jury service. This was the Vicksburg, one-time soldier, for the
opinion of Dr. R. N. Whitfield, di- murder of Pat Henry, attorney;
rector of the state bureau of vital Walter Bumpus, Tunica county ne-
statistics who for several years has gro, uxoricide; Tom Carraway,
done research work disclosing Mis- Jackson county negro, criminal as-
sissippi's homicide rate to be among sult; Winfred Hall, Copiah negro,
the highest in the nation. armed holdup punishable by death.

Four Hanged In 1931

Dr. Whitfield's files showed but
four legal executions in the state
during 1931, all the condemned
being negroes. Two men executed
last year were white. In 1930 but
one legal execution was reported, a
white man. Two persons, both ne-
groes, were hanged in 1929 while
in 1928 the total was six, one being
white.

Executions for 1932 follow:

January 13—Waddell Cosey, War-
ren county negro, at Vicksburg, for
the murder of Will Davis, plantation
manager.

January 15—Guy Fairley, at Col-
lins, for the slaying of H. L.
Everett, Jackson prohibition agent,
in Covington county.

One Execution Here

April 14—Charles Wright, negro,
at Jackson, for the fatal shooting
here of Mayor L. M. Ratliff, of Lib-
erty.

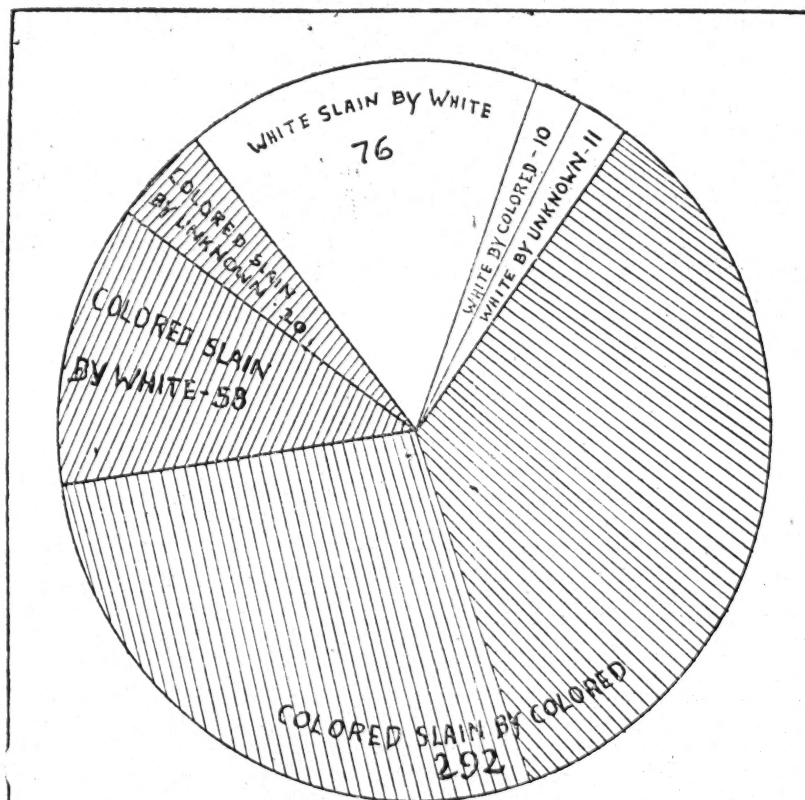
May 12—Eddie B. Weeks, negro,
at Greenville, for the murder of
Walter Davis, Washington county
negro.

May 27—Emmanuel (Kid Boy)

Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss. News
May 14, 1933

Mississippi Homicides By Race



HOMICIDAL DEATHS, 1932, CLASSIFIED

TOTAL, 467--WHITE, 97 - COLORED, 370

WHITE MALES SLAIN, 87		COLORED MALES SLAIN, 305	
By White Males, 63	By White Females, 6	By Colored Males, 197	By Col. Fem., 32
By Parties Unknown, 11	By Colored Males, 7	By White Males, 58	By Parties Unknown, 18
WHITE FEMALES SLAIN, 10		COLORED FEMALES SLAIN, 65	
By White Males, 7	By Col. Males, 3	By Col. Males, 58	By Col. Females, 5
		By Unknown, 2	

The above graph, prepared by the state bureau of vital statistics, reveals
that Mississippi's homicides are committed in greatest number by whites
and negroes within their own races. The heavy number of negro slay-
ings gives Mississippi the second highest rate in the Union.

HOMICIDE IN THE SOUTH

"It is not any outside critic, but The
Daily Clarion-Ledger of Jackson," says
The Arkansas Gazette, which finds in the
"cold statistical record" of Mississippi "a
challenge to our people and an indictment
of our society, its law enforcement agen-
cies, its judges, its executives."

The record shows that during the 16-
year period that ended January 1, 1932,
there were 6,416 homicides of record in
Mississippi. "In other words, as many
Mississippians as would equal the entire
population of an Arkansas city the size of
Morrliton, Paragould or Batesville were
killed by other Mississippians."

Mississippi has the death penalty for
murder. But capital punishment was in-
flicted on only 60 of the 6,416 slayers.
Of the remainder 2,250 were sentenced to
prison terms of varying length, and 4,100
were held to be not liable for legal pun-
ishment.

The slayers convicted of manslaughter
received sentences averaging nine years
and eight months. But 350 such prisoners
were pardoned after serving an average
of three and one-half years, and 37 were
freed under suspensions of sentence.

In all, 1,083 defendants were convicted
of murder and sentenced to life imprison-
ment. "But exactly half of them were
pardoned after serving an average of
seven and one-half years—less than the
average original sentence in the man-
slaughter cases."

From these figures the Jackson news-
paper drew the following conclusions:

"It is inevitable that such facts should
encourage killings. * * * These statistics
are the basis of Mississippi's notoriety for
homicides. They are proof of the charges
against the State. They are facts. What
shall we do about it?"

Concluding its comment, the Little Rock
paper says: "Mississippi is not the only
Southern State faced with such a situa-
tion and such a question. Average actual
'life imprisonment' in Arkansas is about
the same as in Mississippi. And last year,
among the 180 larger cities of the United
States, only three—all Southern—had a
higher homicide rate than Little Rock.
Chicago, with all its gangster killings, had
a rate of 12.8 compared with Little Rock's
rate of 44.8 per 100,000 of population."

VICKSBURG, MISS.

HERALD

MAY 31 1933

MISSISSIPPI'S HOMICIDE RECORD

While Mississippi had 30 less homicides in 1932 than in the preceding year, yet the record of 467 homicides in 1932 should cause the people of the state to give such a shameful record more consideration than it has been given in the past.

The bureau of vital statistics of the state board of health has compiled some interesting figures concerning murders committed during the past few years.

It shows that while there were 467 homicides last year there were but 10 legal execution. The homicide rate among negroes is greater than among the whites.

It shows that Saturdays and Sundays are bad days for quarrels and killings among the negroes.

The white race apparently has no particular days for quarrels and killings. Among the whites women and whisky seem to be the cause of most murders.

Mississippi stands second in proportion to population in the record of homicides of all the states.

There is something radically wrong in the legal handling of murderers in Mississippi. It appears the fault lies more with the jury system than anything else. Time and again, juries fail to convict murderers when the evidence shows beyond a reasonable doubt they should pay the penalty for murder.

A more rigid enforcement of the law of capital punishment would have the effect of reducing murders. In every country in the world where a big percentage of murderers pay the death penalty for their crimes, the homicide rate is very low. England, for example, has fewer murders in one year than are committed in the city of Chicago alone. In England the chance for a murderer to escape the gallows is very slim. Sentiment plays no part whatever with the English law.

The homicide record of Mississippi has its effect in keeping home-seekers from out our border. Thoughtful people do not seek a state in which to make a home where human life is held so cheaply and law enforcement is lax.

A concerted effort on the part of the cities and communities of the state to see that quick justice is handed out to murderers would soon have the effect of reducing Mississippi's homicide rate.

he would strictly enforce the rules pertaining to examining of witnesses, Judge Walter A. White took steps to speed up the work of circuit court, which concluded its first week today.

The court issued its warning at the opening this morning after stating that too much time had been lost during the week. Most of today was consumed hearing minor criminal cases, after which adjournment was taken until Monday.

The grand jury, of which Roy G. Wingfield, Pascagoula business man, was foreman, adjourned after examining 34 witness and returning 11 indictments. An indictment of murder was returned against Lewis Johnson, negro, for the killing of his wife, and Carter Cobb, also a negro,

in Pascagoula in September. Willie Tinsdall, Edward Love and Rosalie Higgins, Mobile negroes, held since August 18 for holding up a filling station on North Pascagoula street, were indicted for petty larceny.

An echo of the robbing of the Pascagoula National bank last November and the subsequent gun battle in Alabama near Grand Bay, in which N. A. Dickson, bank bandit, was killed, and Lonnie Flowers, his companion in the robbery was captured, was heard when Judge Walter A. White ordered indictments against Flowers for kidnaping passed to the files. At the May term of court Flowers was sentenced to 60 years in the state penitentiary and is now serving his term. After he and Dickson held up the bank, they took away with them the bank's vice president and a customer.

MISSISSIPPI EXECUTES NEGRO FOR MURDER

GREENVILLE, Miss., Dec. 7.—(P) Going to his death singing "Heaven Is My Home," Jesse Scott, 24-year-old negro farm laborer, was hanged in Washington county jail this morning for the murder last February of Chu Ying, Chinese grocery during an attempt to hold up Ying's grocery store in North Greenville. The trap was sprung at 10:30 o'clock and Scott was pronounced dead 15 minutes later.

17-YEAR-OLD GIRL ORDERED TO HANG

JACKSON, Miss. —(P)— Execution of a 17-year-old Jackson Negro girl, whose brother was hanged for shooting a white man, was ordered by the Mississippi Supreme Court Monday, and Jan. 17, fixed as the hanging date.

The girl, Annie May Harmon, was convicted of killing her husband, Joseph Harmon, on Dec. 17, 1932.

One of the counts in the unsuccessful appeal to the high court was that a policeman was allowed to testify that when he went to investigate the shooting the woman was asked who shot her husband, and that she replied:

"I killed him. Now take me and hang me. Do what you want with me. You hung my brother for killing a white man. Do what you want with me."

The jury, however, was instructed not to consider the girl's statements about her brother. Her defense was that her husband had been unfaithful and that when she remonstrated he threatened to get an ax from the woodpile and "come back and split her head open."

MOBILE NEGROES FACE TRUE BILLS IN COAST TOWN

Pascagoula Grand Jury Returns 11 Indictments; Judge Makes Call For More Speed

PASCAGOULA, Miss., Oct. 21.—(Special)—Admonishing lawyers that

LESS MURDERS IN 1932

The reduction in the number of murders of Negroes by Negroes in Kansas City during the year 1932 is an indication of better thinking within our group, and also of the higher respect which the Negro community has for the authorities. If only economic conditions produced the will to kill, last year should have been the worst. As it is, it is the best since The Call began its drive against murder.

Some day we hope to present this murder situation in terms of the motives, and the moral backgrounds of the persons involved. However without such a true-to-life picture, it can be said that sordid thinking, momentary rage, violated self-esteem, rather than any reasoned out desire to do elementary justice are responsible for the quick trigger, the knife and the club. Kansas City has few poisonings. Most of its killings are the outlet for intense animalism, few come from cold calculating plan.

The very brutality of our murders gives hope. If killers were prone to burrow, and plot secret assassination, outside influences could not reach them. The act would be the first knowledge of what they had been thinking. But with most of the killings the result of quarrels, it is evident that outsiders might have played the peacemaker.

It is too bad that there are families and groups in which no cool head is present to counsel moderation at some point before the will to kill is aroused. Not interference of the meddlesome kind, but a word, a reminder that tomorrow the matter now so bitterly debated will be of small moment, might save a life. Some day—and we hope it comes soon—the law will catch and convict and punish to death some of these killers. After that may his fate become an object lesson. If only some curbstone genius would then compose a "Frankie and Johnny" that would flash its poignant truth wherever conditions breed the threat and the first blow!

We are not sure that capital punishment

is a good substitute for wholesome training to stop murders. But with so many lives being taken against the law, the courts might take one and give the community whatever lesson it can teach.

BLACK FACE CRIMINAL

As a preliminary step to the kidnaping, Kenneth Buck blackened his face so that anyone who might be called upon to give a description of the kidnaper would say that it was a Negro. This man, no doubt, knew that it was easy to charge a Negro with any crime committed in a community. Therefore, in order to avoid suspicion, he blackened his face. As we have said before in these columns, the black face bandits are the worst sort of criminals because in blackening up their faces, they commit two crimes, a crime against the colored race and the crime which they are committing. This man has lived long enough to know that most of the law enforcement officers are color blind when it comes to crime. They lose their wits and reason when a crime is committed if, perchance, there is any suspicion that a Negro had a part in it. These officers, as a rule, are anxious to apprehend and lock up some Negro until they lose all reason and in many instances to the extent of allowing real criminals to get away.

There is no doubt in our mind but that there are already hundreds of colored people incarcerated in state penal institutions and many have lost their lives, because of the black face white criminal. In many instances, false charges against Negroes have not been carried to the point of blackening of faces to hide crime, but in some cases, yes right here in St. Louis, the crimes which follow lover's quarrels and lost money and jewelry are still unsolved by the police because the perpetrators have found it convenient to say that a Negro committed them; and if the police are not able to find some Negro upon whom the crime may be fastened, they seem never to have intelligence enough to reason any further than what they have been told. Even the reporters on the daily newspapers seem to be pretty dumb about writing their stories about these supposed crimes by Negroes when a little investigation, no doubt, will enable them to write a different story.

Of course, we have no desire nor intention here to offer any defense for the Negroes that commit crimes, but it is our intention to call the attention of the public to this too often repeated method of fastening crimes upon innocent colored people because we think that by so doing it might help the police and law enforcement officers and newspaper reporters to not go color blind every time they hear of some crime committed or some false report.

Troopers Put Negro Boy in Coffin to Force "Confession"

SALEM, N. J., May 2.—A variation on the sadistic third-degree practices of the police was achieved here today when five New Jersey state troopers locked a young Negro boy into a coffin in a morgue in an attempt to extract a "confession" from him.

The boy, Richard Fisher, declared that although he had repeatedly told the troopers he knew nothing of robberies they accused him of, they took him to a morgue and laid him out on the cold marble. Then, he said, they thrust him into a coffin and clamped the lid down. He was "paralyzed" when they decided to "exhume" him.

Earl Giles, another prisoner, said he had been so severely beaten in jail that he had to be taken to a hospital.

The five troopers, Sol Polowitz, Edgar Smith, Hugh Boyle, J. J. Molner and Alexander Bolan, were held in bail ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for a second hearing Monday on charges of assault before Justice of the Peace William S. Miller.

LEADER

Hildwood, N. J.

AUG 24 1933

THE LYNCHING INSTINCT

That ancient law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is being asked for by Ocean City residents in the case of George Brown, Oklahoma vagrant, who shot and killed a young postal clerk at the resort recently. They feel that while death may be too good for the man, he should be electrocuted. Brown, however, wants to plead guilty, take his prison sentence and have an end of it. But people want his blood!

That attitude is quite understandable: the lynching instinct is latent in most of us. When a horrible crime is committed, we long to avenge that crime in the most brutal fashion possible. The life of a youth was snuffed out. Let us take this other man's life! Is this attitude just? Not always and certainly not in this case.

Brown, admittedly of an anti-social nature, trapped in a petty theft, unreasoning, shot at two men who sought to help police capture the suspect. One of the men died. Unquestionably it was murder. The shooting was in defense of crime. But must we be unreasoning, must we be swayed by lustful passion? Must all our education in the handling of criminals go for naught?

Brown, in his 50's, wants to plead guilty. Cape May County, already head over heels in debt and with a terrifically high tax delinquency, can ill afford a costly murder trial now especially where the guilt in a second degree is patent. And where proof of first degree murder, with intent involved, will be a difficult thing to establish. Because of objections to the guilty plea on the part of the people, but not in the case of the prosecutor and defense attorney, the judge has held up his decision as to accepting the plea, purely a matter within his hands. The ends of justice would be served by sending the man to jail for a long term; his electrocution could do no more. "Lynch law" is not a measure of justice.—Daily Post, Vineland.

Negroes Weigh Position In Poultry "War" Being Made "Goats" in Fight Between Farmers of South Jersey

SALEM, N. J.—Is the Negro being made the "goat" in the bitter poultry war which has been waging for some time in Salem County between certain independent white poultry dealers and

one of the victims, John Delcola of Bridgeton, will be examined by a pistol expert to determine whether it was fired from a revolver found at Hall's home. Hall, who also is known by the name of Robert Holton, denies attempting to rob either Delcola or Henry Brown, the other man he is alleged to have held up.

Hall, James Haines, 21, and Joseph Bunting, 16, were all held in \$1,000 bail each for the grand jury by Justice of the Peace Harry Glick charged with having stolen 40 chickens from the farm of John Getsinger on Malboro road. State police claim that the youths admit taking the fowls as well as stealing \$60 from one Frank Foster of Cohansey road.

White poultry dealers in Salem county have been waging a competitive war against each other this year and have employed a number of migrant Negroes from the northern part of the State on their farms. Local residents believe that they use these migrants, most of whom are illiterate, to pillage the farms of their rivals and permit them to "take the rap" when caught by the law. The Negro youths dare not implicate their employers for fear they have them arrested on some trumped-up charge for vagrancy or larceny of goods they never saw. The majority of them, finding themselves stranded after a vain search for work in the glass, linoleum and congoium plants have volunteered to work on the white man's farms just for board and lodging to escape the brutality and terrorism of State troopers who are constantly rounding them up when seen walking along country roads or standing on street corners.

ing in South Jersey and Philadelphia markets?

This is the question being debated by Negro leaders and prominent citizens who view with alarm the wholesale arrests of Negroes in the county for chicken stealing during the past six months.

The matter was again brought to the fore last week when James Hall, 20, who lives near Cohansey was identified as the youth who held up two taxi drivers near Bridgeton several months ago.

Although no money was taken from either taxi driver, Salem police are determined to secure an indictment against the Negro for the alleged crime, inspired by his previous arrest for chicken stealing. A bullet taken from the cheek of

Spent Hubby's Christmas Fund, Fakes Story Of Negro Burglar

NYACK, N. Y.
DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 5—One of the many cases of crimes falsely attributed to Negroes every year is the case of a white woman in New Orleans who, after spending the Christmas fund she and her husband had been saving, fabricated a story about a Negro burglar.

The story forwarded to the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People is authenticated in the New Orleans States, one of the leading daily papers of the city.

According to the story, Mrs. Jessie Saunders, wife of a packer earning \$12 a week, bought clothing for her sisters out of a \$15 fund she and her husband had saved. When the money was spent she alarmed her neighbors with a tale of how a Negro had grabbed her in her home, struck her over the head with a blunt instrument, tore her clothing and robbed her of money and jewels. She had taken the precaution to hide her jewelry under the house.

Detectives, after extended questioning, made the woman admit that the burglar story was false.

Negro Homicide Rate

OUT OF A TOTAL OF 478 homicide and manslaughter cases recorded by the Police Department for 1932 the Negro contributed 109, or nearly 23 per cent, of them, which is many more than his share, which is remembered that the Negro constitutes only 5 per cent of the city population. If the Negro had figured in the case in proportion to his population percentage, instead of 109 the number would have been only 24, or 85 less than the number recorded for him. Commissioner Edward P. Rooney's report for last year, which was made public on Monday, shows a drop of eleven homicide and murder cases from 1931, but the number is 57 more than for the year 1930.

OF THE 449 PERSONS ARRESTED for murders and manslaughters during last year, only 98 were convicted and only 21 sentenced to death. This prompts one to reach one of two conclusions: (1) guilty persons are not being taken into custody, and if they are the evidence against them is too weak to secure convictions, and (2) a large number of the killings are shown to have been justified and the suspects are freed when brought to trial. But no matter what conclusion is reached the figures indicate that the murderer has 22 chances to one of escap-

ing the electric chair and four chances to one of not being convicted at all. Under these conditions it is not surprising that there are so many murders and manslaughters.

WHILE THESE FIGURES AND PERCENTAGES reflect the whole situation affecting these cases in New York City, they only suggest the reasons for the wanton destruction of life among Negroes by Negroes all out of proportion to their population percentage. If the average murderer has 22 chances to one of escaping the electric chair, the Negro murderer has even more chances than this when he slays another Negro and less when he slays a white person. This makes it easy for the Negro to slay another Negro and reduces his chances of conviction or sentence to the death penalty to almost negligible. We believe that this condition, more than anything else, accounts for the high murder rate among Negroes in the city. Harlem, like all other sections of the city in which Negroes live, has far too many unsolved murders due to police indifference. In addition to this, courts are inclined to be lenient in such cases, and this leniency tends further to cheapen the life of the Negro.

THE MURDER AND MANSLAUGHTER RATE among Negroes in New York City is a disgrace not only to the Negro himself, who finds it all too easy to kill his own without fear of punishment, but to the city itself, whose police and courts of justice are more indifferent to the apprehension and conviction of the Negro killer of Negroes. Certain it is that they do not show the same vigilance as they show when a Negro kills a white person. And yet the same vigilance must be shown by the police and the courts when a Negro kills a Negro as when he kills a white person. If this homicide rate is to be brought down and a higher valuation placed on human life.

JUL 19 1933

GENERAL CLEAN-UP DEMANDED

Driven to action by the recent visit of Sheriff Farley, following a complaint signed by a score or more of residents, Police Commissioner Charles F. Gross has stationed a special officer in Franklin street to curb unruly Negroes who have lately congregated on street corners and made the night hideous by disorderly conduct.

There are many Negroes living in the neighborhood and the large majority of them are law abiding, but there is an element long favored by politicians and police that needs to be curbed, a situation missing since the death of Chief Walter Vardaman. These men loiter on street corners and frequently block the intersection, pedestrians in many instances being compelled to circle groups and walk in the gutter.

Most of these Negroes are happy and carefree except when drinking and then fights are inevitable. This situation can be cleared up by Commissioner Gross if he insists that his police raid certain small stores where concoctions of home-made gin and applejack are sold and arrest and prosecute the sellers. Only a few weeks ago a store proprietor caused the arrest of a Negro after a quarrel over an unpaid bill and it developed that the Negro, accused of assault, owed the money for liquor.

There is one place in Franklin street—certainly not unknown to police—where entrance is gained by having the key to the premises dropped from a second story window. This place is reputed to be a disorderly house and liquor is sold to all

persons admitted. In others slot machines high order of public service is the consum-

mation of a shrewd deal which brings a desirable job to a fellow partisan or the control of votes.

Mayor Taylor and Commissioner Gross have expressed a desire to clean up the fester spots of the village. By insisting police rid Franklin streets of its joints and brothels they will win the commendation of all clean-minded citizens.

These abuses can and should be eradicated, regardless of political parties or political "pull." It is impossible for any thoughtful member of either the Democratic or Republican party to look with pride upon this morally offensive situation for which they are chiefly responsible. The job is a big one and calls for something more than the common variety of would-be political leaders, whose conception of a

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FRAMED-UP NEGRO DEATH ON WELFARE ISLAND WHEN HE DEMANDS OWN CLOTHES

pull him along, but the workers hurried him along into an outgoing train and closed shut the door to another attempt at railroading Negro workers.

Only by quick, militant action can we defeat these low-down attempts to victimize our class brothers with a black skin.

—J. R.

N. Y. SUN

Alcee Samuels, Arrested as "Pickpocket" When He Asks for Match in Subway

By SENDER GARLIN.

NEW YORK.—Alcee Samuels, a 29-year old Negro, born in Bordeaux, France, on July 4 ("Independence Day"), asked a man sitting on a bench in the 23rd St. station of the West Side subway for a match. A few minutes later two detectives arrested him, charged with attempted pickpocketing.

The next day the Negro, a chief cook who had been working in a Brooklyn restaurant, was on his way to Welfare Island to serve a 60-day prison term. No complainant appeared against the innocent Negro, but the word of a dick was enough.

Samuels was unschooled in law and court procedure. But he demanded of the magistrate:

"If I tried to rob somebody, why don't that man come and complain against me? When the detectives questioned him, he said nothing against me, did he?"

Samuel's elemental logic failed to interest the judge, who said the sentence would be 60 days in the workhouse.

Samuels served more than the 60 days, because when he arrived on Welfare Island he was too ill to work with a pick and shovel on the coal pile, and his term was lengthened as punishment.

Moreover, when the framed-up Negro emerged from that prison hell his jaw-bone was broken, his head mashed, and his lips swollen to a purple hue.

Samuels had demanded the clothes which he had worn when he entered prison. When he insisted, in spite of being told to "scram," he was jumped upon and clubbed into insensibility with a lead pipe.

His wounds bandaged and his head reeling, Samuels finally left the prison on Saturday. He was bitter, but defiant. Unaware that the Welfare Island prison regime was part of a whole system of torture and oppression—particularly against Negroes—Samuels nevertheless recalled that some organized groups were "favoring the Scottsboro boys."

He made his way to Union Sq. and walked over to a group of men listening to a speaker of the Workers Ex-Servicemen's League. "Who favors the Scottsboro boys?" the tall, angular Negro asked. "The International Labor Defense," he was told.

In the office of the I.L.D., the New York organizer heard his story and sent him over to the Daily Worker.

Crowd in Subway Aids Negro Worker

Defends Him Against False Accusation

(By a Worker Correspondent)

NEW YORK.—I had just stepped from a northbound express at Pennsylvania Station, I.R.T., at 8 a.m. There was an unusual commotion. Three guards stepped from the train pulling with them a tall slender man. Glancing back I observed the man to be a Negro. I stopped, hurried back and soon became one of a rapidly growing crowd.

"Do you want him arrested," yelled one of the burly guards.

"Yes," a young well-dressed man replied, "he stole my wallet."

"Just a minute," a voice demanded, "how do you know he took it?"

"Well, he was the only one near me and when the train pulled in I discovered my wallet was missing. Yes, he picked my pocket."

"I ain't got nothing, not even a wallet of my own," the Negro worker protested. "C'mon, search me and see."

"I've not got a right," the guard insisted, "the police will do that."

By this time a large militant group of workers surrounded the guards. The Negro worker grasping this show of solidarity, especially by the white workers, vigorously protested. "It's because my face is black, that's why you pick on me."

The workers grasped and repeated this militant defiance, shouting their support of this contention.

The young fellow pressed by these angry protests made a show of going through the pockets of the Negro worker, and found nothing but some papers, (a copy of the election platform of the Communist Party included.)

The guard made a last effort to

NOV 17 1933 LAYS CRIMES TO SPARE TIME

Educator Bases Findings on Study in Many Cities.

LEISURE CONFERENCE BEGINS

Both Mass and Individual Recreation More in Need.

Experts in various fields testified this afternoon before the National Recovery Administration's New York committee on the use of leisure time, at the Bar Association Building.

Frederic M. Thrasher, associate professor of education at New York University, told the committee, which is headed by Raymond B. Fosdick, that the unwise use of leisure by young men from 16 years to the early twenties was responsible for an important proportion of serious crime in the United States. He based this statement, he said, on studies and observations made in New York, Chicago and other cities.

Ira De A. Reid testified concerning the leisure time facilities offered the Negro population of this city. These facilities reach not half of the Negro population, he said, and the interests of this group are served in the main by the same public, semipublic and private agencies that minister to these needs throughout the city.

Henrietta Addition, Sixth Deputy Police Commissioner, told the committee that there unquestionably is a need to encourage both mass recreation and the individualized forms.

Among others to be heard by the committee included were Dr. George K. Pratt and Edward D. Gray, the latter chairman of the Personnel Directors Association of New York.

Shelby, N. C. Star
September 25, 1933

TWO MURDERERS

Some time ago The Star quoted an intelligent, law-abiding Shelby Negro as saying that if the courts would deal with a Negro slayer of another Negro as they do with the white slayer of another white there would be less homicides in the colored race.

It was pointed out that it is very seldom a colored slayer is given the maximum for killing another of his race. "As a result," the observant Negro was quoted, "when one of my race gets on a rampage he kills because he knows he'll get just a few years."

In the last week or so two very similar murders bear out his point. The Raleigh News and Observer offers the contrast as follows:

"It is very interesting to observe the almost absolute similarity between the Lamson murder case recently tried in California and the Gaskins case which was tried in Raleigh on Tuesday. Even in Raleigh the Lamson case is the more familiar one.

"In California, David A. Lamson, intellectual young head of the Sanford University Press, rushed out of his house some months ago and reported that he had found his wife dead in the bathroom. His defense contended that she fell and crushed her skull in falling against a wash basin. The prosecution contended that Lamson killed her with a pipe. He is now under sentence to be hung.

"In Raleigh, Lonnie Gaskins, Negro, contended that his wife who was found dead at his home on West South Street last July had stumbled and hit her head upon a stone. The State contended that she had been struck on the head with a blunt instrument and charged that Gaskins had wielded it.

"In the case of Gaskins there was more evidence to connect him with the murder than in the case of Lamson. Gaskins' little daughter testified that she had heard her mother pleading for her life.

"The Wake County Grand Jury brought in an indictment for first degree murder against Gaskins but the Solicitor elected to try him for second degree murder apparently upon the old doctrine that this was just a 'nigger killing.' Therefore the Negro is under sentence to prison while the white man in an identical case is under sentence to be hung.

"Southern courts and court officials make a great mistake in minimizing killings of Negroes by Negroes. By so doing they make more precarious the safety of law-abiding Negroes and preserve alive killers who are dangerous to all society. If Negroes are guilty of first

degree murder within their own race they ought to be tried for first degree murder. Murder is a serious matter and should be so regarded no matter what the color of the murderer or the victim may be. No other course will preserve the safety of the South or reduce the terrible murder record which the South rolls up year after year."

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

SEP 22 1933

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

SEP 25 1933

Safety In Color.

"It took real courage to do that," declared Judge H. Hoyle Sink in addressing a Guilford jury, some members of which had said that although they did not believe in capital punishment they could and would render a first-degree murder verdict if the evidence warranted. Then after 30-minutes deliberation the jury returned a verdict of murder in the second degree against Herman Galloway, Negro, who killed his sweetheart.

First-degree murder convictions are not impossible in Guilford and its adjoining counties, but they are, as we fancy Judge Sink realizes, difficult to come by. The first chief reason that this is true, perhaps, is due to the influence of the Quaker sentiment, which although the church is numerically small, at times seems almost predominant. It does not affect the result when the offender

is a rapist; it might not be so effective in the event a Negro murders a white citizen. But as regards the taking of one Negro's life by another it generally produces a verdict of second degree.

Which is not to the discredit of the Society of Friends, whose record is consistently against bloodshed; it is simply one of those conclusive indices that if a Negro murderer desires to be waited away by electricity he must select as his victim some one not of his own race.

NOV 14 1933

SEP 30 1933

NORTH CAROLINA HOMICIDES

Astounding as it may seem, human life is cheaper in North Carolina than it is in the nation as a whole. And has been so for more than a dozen years. The number of homicides have been increasing for a dozen years in the nation, but the increase has been greater in North Carolina in proportion than in the nation. North Carolina has a crime problem not less serious than the nation as a whole but more serious.

This is not a matter of sentiment but of cold figures. While figures can be made to lie, they can also be made to tell the truth. To arrive at a safe conclusion as to the statistics as to homicides, they are based on the death rates per hundred thousand. The Bureau of the Census has compiled them for the United States. The Bureau of Vital Statistics of the North Carolina Health Department has compiled them for North Carolina. The rate per hundred thousand for North Carolina and for the United States for a ten-year period follows:

Year	N. C.	U. S.
1923	9.7	8.1
1924	11.0	8.4
1925	9.7	8.6
1926	10.4	8.8
1927	10.7	8.8
1928	11.3	8.8
1929	11.9	8.5
1930	10.9	9.0

The rate per hundred thousand in North Carolina in 1931 was 11.1, and for 1932 it was 11.9. If the crime wave which is now sweeping over North Carolina continues unabated, it will be even higher for this year. The increase of homicides in the nation, as shown by the statistics above, has occasioned much comment, but not so much has been heard about the increase in North Carolina. But it is higher and the increase has been greater in the ten years than in the nation.

These figures should give concern to every thoughtful citizen. The greater average for North Carolina can be explained on the basis that homicides are more common among the Negroes than among the white people, but that is no excuse. It does not make the problem less serious. The fact remains that North Carolina has a more serious problem than the nation as a whole.

A Humorous Note

Three men with machine guns came to a Charlotte hotel, secured a room. Two of them were arrested but the third might have been taken except for the activities of police who, when a call for assistance was received, were engaged in other pursuits recently instituted by the Mayor who felt the need for cleaning up the city growing on him. Mr. Frank Smethurst, in the Raleigh News and Observer, describes the incident. "Charlotte," he says, "is in the midst of a seasonal reformation... And so, in the midst of this preoccupation with home-made vice, three gangsters of distinctly out-of-State mien were spotted in a local hotel. In their possession were trunks and suitcases containing an assortment of machine guns, pistols and ready ammunition. There was much excitement in the hotel, a considerable amount of furtive and quite cautious trailing and then a surreptitious telephone call to the police headquarters by the house detective.

"While the police tarried, one of the gangsters strolled away. Eventually the police came, handily nabbed the two remaining and explained that their delay was due to the fact that all the available men on the force at the moment of the call, were engaged in a lottery raid which netted the arrest of two badly frightened Negroes."

Here, frequently, officers on Saturday nights bring in large groups of frightened Negroes who have been playing the game of "skin" with stakes ranging in size from one cent to ten cents. The Negroes occasionally remain in jail until Monday morning and then are fined in court. Most of them call their bosses, get an advance on their wages, and are released. Thus, law and order is preserved.

Whites Capture "Laurels" In Police Court At City's Monday Morning Parade

Last Monday in the Richmond Police Court was an unusual day. This court is noted for the large preponderance of colored violators who

pass in parade there each morning, with dress parades on Monday mornings. The criminal docket last Monday revealed the astounding information that the white folk here at last had succeeded in wrenching the honorable position of leadership

from the motley crowd of colored folks who wall into the toils of the police.

Monday's Score 29 to 13

There were 29 white prisoners before the bar, and only 13 colored paraded before Justice H. A. Maurice. Just what was responsible for this change of front was not apparent, unless the absence of the usual "fighting cases" which generally crowd this court can be advanced as the cause. The docket showed that instead of the usual fifteen or twenty cases of brawls, family fights and what-not, there were only two. Willie Jackson was charged with using his switch knife on Mary Gillis, and Ryland Anderson swung a lamp at Mary Johnson with disastrous results to Mary's hair.

Planet's Campaign Getting Results

Since The Planet has been exposing an alarming condition here among the colored population which is responsible for bloody fights and a murder or two each month, there has been a noticeable falling off in these Saturday and week-end fights. Reports from the sore spots in our community show that the boys are on their good behavior. In passing through one of these spots recently a boy was heard to say, "Don't you guys start no rough stuff. The Planet will get it." If the paper is putting these young men on their guard for good behavior, then a good deal has been accomplished.

White Girls Lead Shoplifting Brigade

There were three girls up for shoplifting in Broad Street stores. And what do you think? Two were white and one was colored. Look out, girls. You will let the other girls take this supposedly colored field from us also. N. R. A. can do some wonderful things, you know. And while we are digesting last Monday's docket let's take a bite at this one: The police brought in five white women and said they were not of good fame. And what do you know about that? It stumps this writer.

Crime - 1933

North Carolina.

GREENSBORO, N. C. NEWS

FEB 10 1933

RESPECTING PERSONS.

Much is said—but not too much—about the glaring injustice that so frequently appears in the judgments of the courts. They are so common that little heed is given them. It is accepted as settled that the offender with friends and influence will get consideration while the unfortunate who has neither will get punishment ample. That isn't always true but it so often is that the practice deserves all the condemnation it receives and more. Which is preliminary to saying that the Raleigh News and Observer presented a case a few days ago which is more glaring than usual, and that is saying quite a lot.

J. C. Hardin, insurance agent, pleaded guilty to violating the insurance laws by collecting premiums unlawfully and converted them to his own use. He collected more than \$1,000 at different times from a policyholder whose policy had lapsed, the victim presently coming to suspect that all was not well. Hardin was indicted for a felony. He had been a noted golf player and had friends. On the plea that he desired to start over and go straight, Hardin was fined \$200 and allowed time to pay part of the fine.

Then appeared three negroes, Labron Crump, Riley Jones and Frank Wall. They had held up an insurance agent and robbed him of \$13 in cash. Two pleaded guilty. Judgment one to three years in state prison. The third was convicted by a jury. Sentence was two to five years.

The robbing ran true to racial characteristics. The white man took advantage of his position of trust and confidence and robbed of a large sum, which is the white man's way. The negroes had no such advantage, couldn't have. They followed the only methods they knew. They didn't gain confidence and violate. They took by force, a small amount. The white man who knew his duty and didn't do it, is beaten with few stripes, so few they are insignificant. The negroes who got the beggarly \$13 by a show of force must serve one to five years in state prison. They lacked background, moral training. Being ignorant and helpless they are beaten with many stripes. But there can be no argument as to which of these was the

HE WORKS AT IT.

Sentencing a lawyer, A. Burton Breece, to five years in state prison on his conviction of embezzling funds he had collected for a business employing him as agent, Judge Cranmer, in Wake Superior court, answered pleas for leniency, declaring that if he could send the man home free from the stain of crime he would gladly give two-three years in his own life. Then he said, "I cannot do this. I have been telling juries and grand juries for years that the law deals alike with white, black, yellow and brown men. It won't do to send obscure men to prison for stealing a pig and those in comparatively high walks of life go free."

When Judge Cranmer told juries that the law deals alike with all offenders he of course didn't expect them to believe it, so contrary is the evidence. But Judge Cranmer is himself apparently trying to live up to the declaration. For which there is commendation. No amount of talk about the law dealing with all alike will make an impression on people who can see with their own eyes a different situation almost any day. But when and if there is a judge here and there endeavoring to show by his judgments, not with talk, that equality before the law isn't a lie every time, there is cause for cheer. The cause of justice isn't without hope.

But I have been in Greensboro daily for years and I have seen the extent of original sentences which holds primary interest, is George Guice, sentenced to serve four to eight years for assault with intent to kill, but whose term was reduced to a minimum of two weeks as a reward for his discovery of a prisoners' escape and subsequent report to authorities. The remainder of the list, save two, follows:

Charlie Moore and Pete Hill, sentenced in Forsyth county in July, 1931, to five to six years each for assault with intent to commit a robbery; Lee Johnson, sentenced in Alexander in September, 1931, to four to five years for breaking and entering; Bergin Roberson, sentenced in September, 1932, to four years for manslaughter in Buncombe county for a crime committed 10 years before; Henry Radford, sentenced in Vance county in September, 1932, to 12 months on five charges; Edward Hester, sentenced in November, 1932, in Granville county for assault with a him and whisper, "Shut up! Give deadly weapon and given 12 months; and Wayne Brooks, sentenced in Duplin county in April, 1933, to six months for larceny.

A CROSS-SECTION.

An interesting commentary upon justice, its inequalities and the responsibility which rests upon the executive to iron them out, is afforded by perusal of practically any parole list issued by the governor's office. A recent clemency pronouncement, made by Governor Ehringhaus and involving eight prisoners,

Topping the list, and it is the extent of original sentences which holds primary interest, is George Guice, sentenced to serve four to eight years for assault with intent to kill, but whose term was reduced to a minimum of two weeks as a reward for his discovery of a prisoners' escape and subsequent report to authorities. The remainder of the list, save two, follows:

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Then here are the couple saved for final—and shall we say honorable or dishonorable?—mention: Taylor and Grace McAbee, who were sent to prison, the former five to eight years and the latter 18 to 24 months, for stealing chickens valued at \$24. Contrast that, if you will, with some of the other sentences and the more serious crimes for which they were imposed in what is likely to be accepted as a cross-section of North Carolina justice; not as representative as it might be, it is true, since no banker is included for comparative, if for no other, purposes.

Winston Salem, N. C. JOURNAL

MAY 10 1933

Commends Co-operation Of Negroes Curbing Crime; But Cites Some Handicaps

To the Editor of The Journal:

I think it very commendable the way some of our colored boys showed their willingness to co-operate with the police department in helping to curb crime in our city, to the extent of trying to hold a Negro that had just killed a girl. Now this kind of co-operation will go a long ways towards eliminating crime in our race, when the criminal begins to fear that he might be overpowered and held for the police. He will not commit a crime as quickly as he has in times past.

With nothing to fear but the officers, he thinks that he can get a good start or lead by the time they arrive, and thus make a sure getaway. And very often, this is exactly what happens. By the time the members of the police department arrive, and exhaust every effort to find out something from the people, who invariably gather around, and yet are unwilling to talk, the criminal has had ample chance to get a good lead and the police department is handicapped in its endeavor to protect those who need their help.

If there happens to be someone in the crowd willing to offer some clues, there is another type Negro who, in some unexplainable manner, touch him and whisper, "Shut up! Give the man a chance!" Why give him a chance when the one he has just killed was denied a chance?

Now some of our good citizens want to know why more isn't done with the criminal? This may help clear the matter—if the case, in which the criminal is being prosecuted could be tried the next day after the preliminary, he would get the full extent of the law; but by the time it goes from one court to another the very same witnesses that tried to hang him in the municipal court have been juggled with and you can't tell state's witnesses from the defense witnesses. And if you heard both trials, you would hardly recognize the case by the evidence.

The same situation exists in the municipal court. A woman will come down and get a warrant for assault with deadly weapon. To verify her assertions, her cut face and a hole in her head speaks for itself. Showing this to the clerk a warrant is speedily secured. Now, by the time the case is continued once or twice, and finally tried, this same woman that acquainted the clerk with her difficulties, will tell another story—that she was grabbed, and in self-defense, she jerked away from him and fell down, thus injuring herself.

Very often, Judge Watson has to ask that a sleeve be rolled up, or a hat pulled off, in order to get evidence to convict a guilty party for brutal assault. There should be a law whereby every one receiving a warrant would have to be sworn, and if they change their testimony, would be tried for perjury. Can justice be dealt out with this enormous handicap?

—WALTER L. LONG,
Detective.

Winston-Salem, N. C.
May 9, 1933.

R. R. CLARK.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette

April 27, 1933

ONE MORE WORD. (Greensboro News.)

Just one more word anent the Roberson-Forsythe case in Durham county Superior court and The Daily News, lest it become wearisome, promises to desist.

Dr. Mike Roberson, it will be recalled, was given a three to five years' suspended sentence when he entered a plea of nolo contendere to a charge of performing an illegal operation, which led to fatal blood poisoning, upon a young Harnett county school teacher. Part of the evidence, as reported in the public prints, was to the effect that the victim named the Durham physician as the operator shortly before she died, although there was some dispute about the acceptability of this statement as evidence. But so much for that.

Later, at the same term of court, Isaiah Ham, negro, was tried for the slaying of a negro woman convicted of second degree murder and sentenced "to serve not less than 20 and not more than 30 years in the state penitentiary at hard labor." From The Durham Sun it is learned that "Ham was named by the woman in a death-bed statement shortly after she had been shot down . . . Witnesses . . . testified that she said 'Isaiah Ham shot me.'"

That's all; a development cited merely for whatever place it may have in the records.

GREENSBORO, N. C. RECORD

JUN 3 1933

Hobo In Tough Luck.

Monroe Brown, negro hobo, just to bother with plain cases of ride-given 30 days by a local court for stealing. But now it may be that the time have his rabbit foot with him when has arrived, or is rapidly approach-he swung off a fast Southern freighting, when the railroad police will Thursday at the passenger station revive the war on hoboes. The case and fell right into the arms of in question may so indicate. Mean-Sergeant Dallas, of the railway while, if Monroe is of the sort prone police. The sergeant, who was at to grouch, it will be not so strange the station "to meet a friend," seems if he should complain of discrim-to have been as much surprised as ination in that he has been arrested was Monroe at this sudden contact, for hoboing while so many hundreds It's news these days when a hobo continue the practice without moles-is arrested for beating a ride. So tation. But what else could the much so that we are inclined to sergeant do but arrest in a case like think it may be still another sign of that? Surely a black cat must have the return to better days, econom-crossed the path of Hobo Brown on ically. Thursday last.

Time was when the railroad dicks made it hot for the 'boes. They would yank them off trains; some-times pull them for walking the tracks—"trespassing on railway property"—and not infrequently pinch them for loitering around trains or stations.

But times changed. It is no un-common sight now, nor has it been for the last two years, to see hoboes by the score riding trains—both pas-senger and freight—openly, brazenly and, apparently, unmolested by train crews or railroad coppers.

With such a multitude of non-paying passengers in transit the job of arresting ride-stealers, it seems, got too big for the railroad police. Or, it may be that the higher-ups in railroad circles in vi-w of the "eco-nomic emergency" decided to have a heart and passed the word down the line to "Let 'em ride." At any rate they have been, and are, riding—and how!

Formerly the accustomed pro-cedure in the case of the hobo was to try and fine him in some lower court. If he couldn't pay a fine—and usually he couldn't—he was turned over to county or city au-thorities to be hoteled for a month, at taxpayer expense, of course.

But the time came when most of the jails and prison camps were filled to overflowing, and when the authorities as well as the hard-

pressed taxpayers didn't relish the idea of having to house, clothe and feed hoboes doing a 30-day hitch.

Then, too, it seems, the railroad dicks had more work than they could say grace over without having

But now it may be that the time has arrived, or is rapidly approach-ing, when the railroad police will revive the war on hoboes. The case in question may so indicate. Mean-while, if Monroe is of the sort prone to grouch, it will be not so strange that he should complain of discrimination in that he has been arrested at this sudden contact, for hoboing while so many hundreds are arrested for beating a ride. But what else could the sergeant do but arrest in a case like this? Surely a black cat must have crossed the path of Hobo Brown on Thursday last.

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LET NONE SAY NOW

To those who have had open season for the three-quarters of a century or more of blaming the south with injustices to the negro and blaspheming our courts of jus-tice as being prejudiced against the black-state prison by Judge Sink. The last day man, let them learn of the sentence of of court (Wednesday) Judge Sink chang-one Talmage Dowell, negro, in the Surry county superior court last week.

Dowell, an admitted bootlegger of cases. They are merely set forth for the Winston-Salem, was arraigned under asake of comparison. Let none say now first degree murder charge for the killing that the negro, in the Surry county super-of Walter Sales, white, when the latter court at least, cannot and will not re-accosted him in a not highly courteous ceive justice at the hands of the court.

The parties were acquaintances and Dowell was a native of Wilkes county in a sec-tion above Elkin, the home of Sales. Dowell, admitted hauling liquor from Wilkes to Winston in quantities beyond his mem-ory, serving time on the roads for boot-legging, and circumstantial evidence showed that that was his mission the night he stopped at the filling station, where the shooting occurred accompanied by a woman not his wife and another ne-gro man. Dowell, who admitted the killing in guileless candor, had not always domiciled in North Carolina; he had lived in Ohio for several years, and showed traces of mannerisms of that section.

When Sales approached the man with the utterance, "Negro, how about a drink," Dowell returned the repartee with an insulting epithet. Then when

Sales advanced on him he pulled a pistol from his pocket, shot Sales dead; got in his car, and drove away. An observant attendant led to his apprehension by getting the license number of his car as part. he drove away.

On a voluntary plea of guilty of mur-der in the second degree, Judge Hoyle Sink sentenced Talmage Dowell, killer and bootlegger, to five years in the state prison.

The day before justice was meted out to Dowell, Andrew Gunter, white, tenant farmer of the Ararat section pled guilty to murder in the second degree for the death of Esker Beck, another white ten-ant farmer. Both men were given good characters by citizens of the communities in which they lived. A quarrel was pre-cipitated between the two late one after-noon after the children of the two men had quarrelled over a haystack. In the heat of the battle, Gunter took his knife and stabbed Beck. After the fatal stab-bing Gunter returned to his home. When an officer of the law sought him, he sub-mitted to arrest without any resistance and pulled from his pocket a knife with the statement, "Here is the knife I killed him with."

For this murder Gunter was sentenced to 15 to 20 years of hard labor in the state prison by Judge Sink. The last day of court (Wednesday) Judge Sink chang-ed the sentence to 10 years minimum.

There is no relation between these two cases. They are merely set forth for the sake of comparison. Let none say now that the negro, in the Surry county super-ior court at least, cannot and will not re-ceive justice at the hands of the court.

Charlotte, N. C., News
June 8, 1933

More Than a Suit for Damages.

Whether it be true or not, the charge brought by the Negro man that two rural police officers "took him from his cell and slapped and beat him severely" and when he cried out "crammed into his mouth a live frog" is sufficiently horrible in itself to merit an independent investigation by the commission which has charge of the county de-partment. And when we suggest an investigation we do not mean the lackadaisical procedure that has come to be customary.

Naturally The News knows nothing of the truth or falsity of the Negro's complaint. It is our obser-vation, parenthetically, that when

people encounter such extraordin-ary misfortune as is described here it usually is preceded by some provocative act or behavior on their part.

At the same time we should not attempt to dispose of this inci-dent by generalities any more than we should expect the county civil service commission to wave away the whole matter with the statement that it is ridiculous and that no county officer would think of such a thing. Let it be proved or disproved only after full investigation and a hearing.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

NEWS

AUG 10 1933

The Majestic Law.

(The Goldsboro News-Argus.)

Nine negroes were assembled, prob-ably to gamble, according to the suspicions of the chief of police as he is reported to have voiced them. But it didn't look as if the whole crowd had enough money to con-duct a gambling game, so the charge was "unlawful assembly."

And on that charge each of the nine was charged costs in the case.

That's a resume of a little case in mayor's court in Goldsboro. It was reported in routine fashion; appar-ently the whole thing was handled as routine and without any ques-tioning in anyone's mind about the legal or decent propriety of it all.

They looked like a crowd that would like to gamble;

They didn't have money enough to gamble;

So the police ran them in; And the mayor levied a money fine against each one.

What happened if any of them didn't have money enough to pay the fine out of that lack of enough to gamble with is not reported.

We're not blaming the mayor or the police or even the reporter for their respective handlings of the case. It's all a custom of the coun-try.

But "unlawful assembly." It sounds like Cuba.

WINSTON SALEM, N. C. SENTINEL

JUN 28 1933
Merely Ridiculous

Judge A. M. Stack is always more or less picturesque when on the bench. The other day in Guilford superior court he gave a Negro charged with larceny "three months more for that fool speech you made to the jury." The jurist chided the defendant for taking up the time of the court and wasting the county's money when he was clearly guilty.

Judge Stack was invoking a clear and valid principle—which is indeed very rarely invoked in the court room. It is this latter phase of the episode that vitiates the judge's action. Why pick on a poor Negro to bear the brunt of the principle? If the Negro had been able to employ learned counsel, he might have obtained a verdict of not guilty. Judge Stack would have listened to a number of "fool speeches" on the part of counsel.

The law presumes a defendant innocent until proved guilty, and it guarantees him the right to be heard before a jury either in person or by attorney. If he makes a "fool speech," that is a matter between him and the jury. No judge has a right to penalize a defendant for making a "fool speech."

If the judges of North Carolina would start higher up to apply the principle which Judge Stack invoked and would apply it consistently, the result would be most excellent. But to apply it to a poor and not too intelligent defendant is nothing more than an excursion into the realm of the ridiculous.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

JUN 22 1933

A FAR, FAR PIECE.

It is not the Daily News' intention to say that Judge A. M. Stack was not on the right trail when he rebuked a defendant in Guilford county Superior court Tuesday for taking up the court's time and wasting the county's money in trials—when guilt is obvious—that could be

dispensed with if pleas of guilty and are now submitted to this tribunal for the seventh time."

At the same time the jurist's remarks lead into broad fields which credited to Judge Stack has a far, go far beyond a negro defendant far piece to go.

who is arraigned on a larceny charge and who is given "three months more for that fool speech you made to the jury"; a sentence which some may consider to be in more or less conflict with what they have conceived, perhaps erroneously, to be certain fundamental and inalienable rights.

Aside from these fundamentals, siding judge, evidently feeling har- which, after all, may be too heavy- rassed over the way the man con- for hot weather consumption, there- ducts his defense, and wishing to are various questions which push to emphasize the old adage that "who the fore without palpable effort. Just acts as his own lawyer has a fool what constitutes a "fool speech" to for a client," went the jury one a jury? In what category are in- better and said: "I am going to give terminable harangues by lawyers, you three months more for that fool who oftentimes forget the evidence en- speech you made to the jury. I tirely in their prejudicial appeals, wish I could send you to the insane who go through pantomimes of cry- asylum."

ing, praying and even lie—no pun We don't know, of course, what intended—on the floor, if memory sort of speech the accused colored serves correct about a celebrated man made to the jury. He was not Charlotte cast of not so long ago, trained in the law. In all probab- before twelve good men and true? ity he was not trained at all. His

And then, how is the delay which may have been occasioned by trial pity, rather than the wrath of the judge, however. But in as much as it did bring down upon the head of the hapless defendant the wrath of the judge, it brings up the question of what judges might with equal propriety do in the case of fool law- yers who make fool speeches to juries, either in behalf of, or in efforts to convict some one in the toils of the law.

Consider the case of Wade Wright, the Decatur, Alabama, dis- trict solicitor, who aided in the prosecution of the Scottsboro boys. Mr. Wright made what was gener- ally conceded to be a fool speech. Then there was Attorney General Knight himself, who, when his side scored what he considered a telling point, jumped up and clapped his hands and ran into an anteroom. The North Carolina judge who gave this Negro pleader three months ex- tra for his speech would probably States Supreme court three, times, have jailed both Messrs. Wright and Knight.

Jailed For a Speech

A NEGRO was up before a jury in a Superior Court in North Carolina upon a charge of large- He elected to conduct his own de- fense, going so far as to make a speech to the jury. When he was through the jury found him guilty and fixed his punishment. The pre-

Consider also some of the fool de- cisions that judges render. We have no particular case in mind, or we deem it unwise to cite any particu- lar case, for fear we may be cited for contempt of court and jailed for writing a fool editorial. But we will say, without fear of punish- ment, that all the fool speeches and all the fool things done in courts are not done by foolish men who elect to conduct their own defense.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

JUL 23 1933
A Year a Life.

Last month, you will recall if the police statistician's report stuck in your mind, there were three murders in Charlotte, in ad- dition to the regular crop of cut- ting scrapes, hold-ups, robberies and the like. The murders didn't amount to much, it is true. The three victims were Negroes, and it is well known that when only a Negro has been killed the Law doesn't take it any too seriously.

Last week one of the manslayers came to trial in Superior Court. He was Ernest Green, an East Pal- mer street resident, who had shot and killed a Negro named Robin- son in what appears to have been a street brawl. Green himself was shot in the mouth by another man.

Green was convicted of man- slaughter and sentenced to two years on the roads.

Friday in the same court a Negress by the name of Ophelia Johnson escaped the heavy hand of the Law when a jury decided she had killed one of her lady friends in self-defense. The evi- dence was that the two women had fought with knives over the affections of a man both desired. Ophelia won.

The News does not make the point that in either of the cases summarized here there has been a miscarriage of justice. Naturally we have no basis on which to con- tend that the Negro man should

have been punished more severely or that the woman should have been punished at all.

What we do say, however, and the records will show it, that two Negroes are dead and buried; that for the violent manner of their go- ing the Law has demanded a total of two year's time from their slay- ers. What we say, moreover, is that unless the Law can work it- self up into a lather over the rou- tine killing of Negroes by Negroes its rage at the killing of whites by Negroes will be somewhat in the nature of an impotent after- thought.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

JUL 9 1933
Every Ten Days.

The police statistician's report for last month discloses that in addition to the regular crop of cutting scrapes, hold-ups, automo- bile accidents and the like there were three murders in June. Right

off we know that is a mistake. There were no murders in June. There couldn't have been.

There were no big headlines about murders, for one thing, and how can you have a murder with- out suitable headlines? There was no furore of conversation and pri- vate opinions, no perceptible ex- citement among the lawyers who defend injured innocence. That statistician must've made a mis- take. We'll just give her a ring.

Ah; so that's it! There were, exactly as reported, three murders in June. Elliott Baker was killed, allegedly by Minnie Wiley. Jack Robinson was killed, allegedly by Ernest Green. Mamie Montague was killed, allegedly by her hus- band, Quitman Montague.

Three murders, but they didn't amount to anything. Whoever heard of any of these people? Nobody; the accused ones are only Negroes, their victims other Ne- groes.

Still, Negro murders run up the

homicide rate, so that those unacquainted with our peculiar conditions might think we white people were killing each other. Moreover, there is no guarantee that those of the colored race with murderous instincts will confine their activities to their own people. Of course if that should happen the electric chair would gain a customer. For simple nigger killings, however, 15 or 20 years usually suffices. That may go to explain why we had three murders last month.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

JUL 3 1933

DISCOURAGING TO SELF-RELIANCE
Asheville Times.

"Who acts as his own lawyer has a fool for a client, says the adage. A Negro appearing in his own behalf before Judge Stack in Superior Court, and convicted of larceny, may take the dictum all the more to heart in view of Judge Stack's reported statement from the bench, published in the press as follows:

"I am going to give you three months more for that fool speech you made to the jury. I wish I could send you to the insane asylum."

This appears "cruel and unusual punishment," even when due allowance is made for the legal and factual vagaries of which the luckless defendant was doubtless guilty as he struggled in the self-made toils of the law.

If the jurist's nervous system had been operating more normally, perhaps he would have communed with himself after this fashion:

"This defendant has destroyed, by his own aimless rhetoric, whatever chances he had with the jury. Yet, had he been able to employ learned and accomplished counsel, he might possibly have escaped punishment; anyway, his case would have been less hopeless. In my sentence upon him I shall at least ignore the poverty of his purse and his intellect, even though I must discipline him for his moral failure, which he might have avoided."

WILMINGTON, N. C.
NEWS DISPATCH

JUN 27 1933
NOTE ON SUNSHINE

The persistent clamor raised when **SUNSHINE JONES** was in the shadow of the electric chair and which created such a powerful sentiment in his behalf that he was removed from death row to the hospital for the insane at Goldsboro, is not complimented by the latest advent of the diminutive negro killer on the front pages.

SUNSHINE returned to notoriety Sunday night when he led a futile but uproarious

riot in the hospital at Goldsboro, which was quelled only after considerable damage had been done to the hospital plant, and which ceased only when a barrage of tear gas was imminent.

It had been claimed for **JONES** that his mentality was too low for him to pay the supreme penalty notwithstanding the gravity of his crimes. It was also mentioned that he was one of those unfortunates never having a chance in life, etc.

With these scientific questions we do not profess over-familiarity, but it will be noted that **SUNSHINE** was cunning enough to pick an opportune time for his mutiny; intelligent enough to select some hardened fellows as his chief lieutenants and wise enough to stop when he discovered that gas would be the next. Incidentally it might be mentioned, he possibly sensed that police trying in vain to subdue the rioters would shoot over their heads.

NEW BERN, N. C.
SUN JOURNAL

JUL 5 1933
Criminal Cases

During that period from July 1, 1930, to July 1, 1932, an average of one citizen of the county in 72 per year became involved in some criminal court including superior court and those of lesser rank. But eighteen of the counties of the state showed a higher percentage of their citizens so involved, while eighty-one showed fewer criminal cases in comparison with the number of inhabitants. It has a yearly average of 32 criminal cases or one for each 528.3 inhabitants. Jones county had a criminal case for each 156.7 inhabitants; Onslow one for each 97.9 inhabitants; Craven, one for each 72 inhabitants; and Pamlico one for each 38.3 inhabitants. Pamlico's record is next to the highest in the state.

These are the figures presented in the University of North Carolina News Letter, as compiled from the recent biennial report of the attorney general of North Carolina. The state's yearly average for the two-year period was one criminal case disposed of for each 193 inhabitants.

The figures may be interpreted a number of ways. It is pointed out by the News Letter, for instance, that the negro criminal

rate is higher than the white rate although there were 38,457 white and 22,699 negro cases disposed of in the two-year period. Here the negro and white populations are more evenly divided, although the state has more than twice as many white people as negroes. Law enforcement and efforts to clear court dockets might have made a showing; and it is apparent that violation of the prohibition laws was the leading crime for both years.

Another phase of the question, one deserving serious consideration in the counties which have most cases, is the cost of crime.

WINSTON SALEM, N. C.
JOURNAL

JUL 1 1933
Carolina Comment

TOO MUCH CRIME IN N. C.
(Kinston Free Press)

There was one criminal case in the courts of North Carolina reporting to the attorney-general for every 103 inhabitants for each year of the biennium from July 1, 1930, to July 1, 1932.

Stanly county had the best record with one case for every 686 inhabitants. Haywood had the worst record with one for every 36. There is little difference in the populations of the counties. Lenoir county, with its large colored population, had a criminal case for each 138.3 inhabitants. Most defendants were up on charges of violating the prohibition laws. It is not surprising that one-third of the criminal cases tried during the two-year period had to do with violation of prohibition laws.

There is satisfaction in the fact, noted by the University of North Carolina's News Letter, that superior courts did a much bigger business in 1930-31 than in 1931-32.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

AUG 9 1933

Prisons and Schools

To the Editor of The Observer: A comparison betwixt the two races as to relative crime increase and per capita school cost should prove helpful in our present crime and educational dilemma. According to "School Facts" for January, 1931, published by the state superintendent of public instruction, the per pupil cost for public education (below college level) in North Carolina is 233 per cent greater for whites than for negroes.

From 1916 to 1932, whites committed to the N. C. State prison increased from 149 to 1,597, as against increased negro commitments from 254 to 1,279. Of the 723 commitments under 21 years old during the two years ending in 1932, 423 were white and 300 colored. Of 112 forgery commitments in 1931-32, 104 were white and only 8 colored. On a percentage basis, from 1916 to 1932

increased tax appropriations for public schools netted the Old North State a crime increase of 971 per cent from the 233 per cent more expensively educated white race, as against 400 per cent crime-increase from the less expensively educated negroes.

If, as is persistently postulated by our educational bureaucrats, long school terms and higher education and the high cost of education as autocratically administered by them is an affectual crime-eradicator, why this deplorable showing by the white race in the face of the postulated advantage of a 233 per cent higher educational cost therefor?

In fairness to our white race, it is well to observe that, in proportion to the total state population of each race, and despite the great set-back suffered by the whites in the matter of crime-increase during the past 16 years, the negro race still leads in crime in our Commonwealth. Howbeit, and as will be seen from the statistics hereinbefore submitted, this line of distinction is fast disappearing and will ere long vanish entirely and eventually leave the stigma of crime-leadership on the white race, even in proportion to total state population, unless there be an early and drastic decrease of lawlessness hereamongst.

L. A. TATUM.

Belmont, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

A DANGEROUS FOLLY

The chief of police of the City of Atlanta gives sound diagnosis of the causes of the high murder rate in Southern cities. It is due not only to the large Negro element in Southern population but also to the fact that Southern white men have minimized the importance of murder among Negroes.

"One reason for the high percentage of killings among Negroes is that few of them are electrocuted for slaying members of their own race," declared Chief Sturdivant, of Atlanta. "We bring them before the courts charged with murder and the verdict usually is manslaughter. This does not serve as sufficient deterrent."

It is hard to conceive of a greater folly. White Southerners on the bench, at the solicitor's table and in the jury box who minimize the crime of murder among Negroes serve not only to decrease the safety of the great majority of law-abiding Negroes but also to destroy the fear of the law in criminal killers to the danger of the entire white and black South.

Negro Ex-Convict Sues Doctors, Charging Careless Examination

Winston Salem, N. C.
JOURNAL

JAN 16 1933
Education and Crime

Dr. W. F. Brown, of this city, and Dr. Charles Wharton, of Rockingham, physicians employed by the State Highway Department to examine prisoners committed to the county roads, were named defendants in a \$50,000 damage suit filed in Forsyth superior court today by Eli Cunningham, colored, ex-convict.

Cunningham alleges both physicians ignored his physical infirmities and allowed him to be consigned to hard labor on the roads. After he had served half his term working on roads in Rockingham county, his condition became so critical, he states Dr. Wharton ordered him discharged from the chain gang. But the discharge came only after serious impairment had been done to his health, he contends.

Cunningham states that prior to the December, 1932, term of Forsyth superior court he was convicted of assault in the Winston-Salem municipal court and fined \$5 and costs. Upon his inability to pay the fine, the judgment was changed to sixty-one days on the roads, he says. The sentence was upheld by the superior court.

He claims he was suffering from decompensated heart disease, chronic arthritis, chronic gastritis, and other maladies.

He states he told Dr. Brown of his ailments and presented doctors' certificates. He asserts the physician read the certificates and letters and returned them, refusing to make the necessary examination in order to determine his true physical condition.

After working forty-eight days in Forsyth the Negro was transferred to Rockingham, where he was carried to the physician, whose duty it was to examine him before putting him to work, according to the complaint. He claims he was "okayed" by the physician without interrogation or examination.

The plaintiff states he continued at hard labor for the next twenty-eight days, during which he suffered from several heart attacks, from which he remained unconscious for hours at the time, suffering also from swelling of hands, feet and stomach, until he "was almost at death's door." He was hauled into camp, he says, and discharged on January 10. He said the camp captain told him Dr. Wharton had ordered his discharge.

On June 30, 1932, there were 1,336 prisoners in the State Prison. Of these, 34 whites and 155 Negroes were unable to read or write; 9 whites and 15 Negroes could barely read and write; 323 whites and 313 Negroes had attended common school; 189 whites and 63 Negroes had attended grammar school; 119 whites and 37 Negroes had attended high school, 25 whites and 4 negroes had attended college. In terms of percentage, 67.29 per cent. of the prisoners did not attend any school above the common grades. Less than 12 per cent. attended high school, and less than two-tenths of 1 per cent. ever attended college.

Superintendent Pou says the data are significant because they show that education is one means of crime prevention. In 1930 the State Prison Department initiated a program of educational work at the Central Prison and at the Camp Polk Farm. At Christmas time in the first year that this work was begun, the superintendent received letters from twenty-one young white prisoners in which they thanked him heartily for giving them the opportunity to learn to write. These were the first letters the prisoners had ever written. There are now 62 students in the Camp Polk School and 93 at the Central Prison, a total of 155.

The facts show that the groups of citizens who have had the most education furnish the fewest prisoners. If people are to be educated, they must have both the opportunity and the capacity for education. The State is bound by the very implications of the good citizenship it demands to provide the opportunity for education. The capacity

phase of education is more difficult. Su-week-end has by no means a monopoly on crime perintendent Pou gives no data that in North Carolina. Considering that this is a state without a single large city, the prevalence of crimes is in the language of Judge OGLESBY, a direct challenge to civilization and society.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

STAR

JAN 10 1933
CRIME IN NORTH CAROLINA

ADDRESSING the grand jury of Mecklenburg county yesterday morning, Superior Court Judge OGLESBY declared the crime record of North Carolina enough to bring disgrace on a pagan nation.

Perhaps Judge OGLESBY had had his memory refreshed by a glance at the morning papers. Certainly there was sufficient crime in their columns to startle even a layman, much less a jurist who sees the criminal workings at closer range.

From Asheboro came a report of two fourteen year old boys left alone in a country home. The parents of one returned to find him propped in bed unconscious, seriously wounded and two shot guns crossed before him. His companion lay dead in a nearby field his head torn away with a shotgun load.

Near Morganton, a filling station operator, stepped into his automobile to drive home. A masked bandit concealed in the rear of the tonneau shot and clubbed him to death.

At Snow Hill, a negro ran amuck, chopped one to death with an axe and completed his sanguinary morning by shooting a woman. Here in Wilmington one negro stabbed another to death during a quarrel over a quar-

There is more to add since Judge OGLESBY spoke to the Mecklenburg jurors. Four stores, it was discovered today, were robbed in Lexington during the night. Another hold-up was reported from Elizabeth City where a watchman was knocked unconscious, and to complete the day a spunky bank cashier at Rural Hall, beat off four bandits after a gun battle.

This record is not unusual. Indeed, it hardly differs from the usual week-end, and the

FIREARMS AND THE POLICE

"Night Policeman Breeden, of Red Springs, as it might be put in the vernacular of the region, has killed himself a nigger."

Thus does The Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News approach the accidental killing of a Negro chicken thief by a suburban peace officer 2-2-33

In part, The Daily News comments:

It is noted that Officer Breeden claims an accident, which we hasten to allow—the negro was shot in the head as he fled in the dark—but this sort of accident is all too frequent in this part of the country.

The story goes that the policeman saw a negro come out of a yard in a manner both surreptitious and suspicious and gave chase. After running the fugitive 100 yards the pursuing representative of the law pulled out his pistol—for what purpose except to shoot we are at a loss to say—fell down, the gun somehow exploding and a bullet catching the darkey in the back of the head and immediately putting an end to his night prowling.

When last we saw a news summary of the matter the coroner had not concluded his inquest. The result may safely be forecast. The deceased came to his death by reason of an accidental gunshot from a weapon in the hands of the law. There is nothing else to be said formally.

The men entrusted with the public's safety often are denied sympathetic understanding.

It is hoped that the recently organized Alabama Peace Officers Association will aid in bringing about a better public understanding of the policemen's trials. But it also is hoped that the organization will do its bit to wipe out firearm accidents.

Officers of the law have no more right to handle guns negligently than have private citizens—and their training should make such accidents even less excusable.

Too often are petty thieves and bootleggers shot by officers who intend to "shoot over their heads," or who stumble and fall, discharging a pistol.

Policemen must protect themselves from criminals. There are times when a second's hesitation might cost them their

This can not be overlooked. only remedy for such conditions seem to prevail in the Greensboro section is thorough, conscientious investigation of all such accidents, and the employment of cool, level-headed men who realize the full responsibilities of police officers.

A Strong Note On Justice

COMMENTING editorially on the sending of three men to state's prison for from two to three years for stealing \$13 while another got merely a fine of \$200 and no prison sentence for the theft of \$1,078.50 the Raleigh News and Observer wants to know "where is justice?" It happens that the thieves who stole the light amount and got the heavy sentence are black while the heavy robber who got the light sentence is white.

Such miscarriages of justice as this one pointed out and roundly condemned by the News and Observer frequently occur in our courts. The underprivileged, white and black, generally get the full penalty of the law, while those with prestige or money generally have the scales of justice balanced in their favor. Negro newspapers and others frequently call attention to gross disparities in the dispensation of justice as between white and black, and frequently are criticised for what is taken to be undue sensitiveness. It is gratifying to have such an influential factor in the moulding of public sentiment as the News and Observer take notice of this inequality in the courts of justice. Not knowing all the circumstances connected with the conviction and the penalties imposed upon the three colored men we are not prepared to say that they got more punishment than was due them but such appears to be the case when the penalty handed the white man is considered. Robbery is robbery, just as murder is murder, and should be punishable under the law without regard to identity of race or advantage of station in life.

GREENWOOD, S. C.
INDEX JOURNAL

JAN 13 1933

LET JUSTICE BE DONE

A peculiar case is reported from Anderson county. A negro named George Hull has been sent to the chain gang for ten days for failure to pay one dollar poll tax. A fine of ten dollars was imposed but George had no money and in fact had no food for himself and a family of five.

If every poll tax delinquent were fined ten dollars or ten days in that

county, no criticism would be in order.

It may be that George will be better fed for the ten day period than he would be if left at liberty.

That is no justification for the unusual action in his case, nor would it be in any other case.

CONCORD, N. C.
TRIBUNE

JAN 12 1933

A JUDGE SPEAKS WITH COURAGE.

It's Judge John M. Oglesby speaking before the Mecklenburg county grand jury in Charlotte:

"North Carolina has been writing a crime record for the past four years sufficient to shock the sensibilities of a pagan nation.

"We boast, and rightly boast, in North Carolina of our schools, churches and natural resources, of our institutions and industrial empire, but now I call to your attention that the time has come when we must halt and search our souls and eradicate boldly and courageously the lawlessness which has come upon us."

Judge Oglesby pointed to the report of the attorney general covering two years and showing that 15,732 cases, including 431 homicide cases, had come before Superior courts of the State with resulting convictions in 10,998 cases. Of defendants, 9,770 were white and 5,940 negroes and 56 Indians and two corporations. The judge also quoted estimates that the economic loss from automobile accidents in North Carolina is \$30,000,000.

"Are we going to continue to talk about the lures of our climate with such things going on?" he continued. "Now, gentlemen, I realize that the average citizen is indifferent to these conditions. Were it not so the conditions would have improved. But the public has placed upon us—upon the courts—the responsibility of establishing the supremacy of law over crime. It is a challenge to us. We are challenged by a condition which permits important people to play bridge games for money as recreation while the one gallused boy shooting craps is arrested for gambling.

"We are faced by the condition which permits board of directors of banks gathering around a table and lending the banks money to each other until the bank is 'busted' and then calling the remainder 'frozen assets' while a man who holds a gun on you and takes your money is a robber.

"We are faced by a condition which permits

the homes of the lowly to be raided for a pint of liquor while the mighty have their liquor for cocktail parties unmolested.

"Gentlemen, let us be honest and fair—and courageous."

Any one taking the trouble to make inquiry into the matter knows that Judge Oglesby was not exaggerating. We have specialized on the "one pint" man, as he says, as though trying in that fashion to salve our consciences for aiding and abetting the work of the "five gallon" man. We put up a great hue and cry about the hungry or ragged person who steals a bite to eat or a garment to clothe his cold body, but condone the rascality of the man who steals thousands.

We have much crime in North Carolina because we have become careless and indifferent. Our standards are warped and nothing will be done to correct the many evils apparent on every side until we return to the aims and ambitions and determination of the people who first settled in this State and made it great.

WICKES WAMBO
Thursday, February 23, 1933

ABOARD THE EARTH
BY WICKES WAMBO

All my life I have understood that negroes do not commit suicide, so when I learned the other day that a colored man had taken his life in our city, I called up the coroner and asked if the suicide were a full-blooded negro. The coroner answered in the affirmative and added that he had never known a negro to kill himself until the past year, during which time five of them in our community have deliberately destroyed themselves.

What does the foregoing situation indicate? Does it mean that conditions have reached the point where even the supposedly happy-go-lucky, easy-going negro can no longer endure them? Or does it mean that the negro, thrown more and more on his own resources since his emancipation, finds himself contemplating his responsibilities with more and more concern? Or does it mean that as the negro becomes more and more enlightened, more and more faced with the exactments of the white man's civilization to which he is not by nature and custom attuned, he is becoming more and more imbued with the idea that the game is not worth the candle? Or is it that the negro, naturally imitative, has copied from the white man the error of self-destruction?

Thinking is as dangerous as high voltage electricity. Thinking must be done as carefully as high voltage electricity must be handled. The thinker who fools with thoughts he does not understand may tear himself up. Too much thinking directed toward the thinker is like too much electricity directed toward the person. It will kill him. We should turn our thoughts outward, not inward. It is all right to turn enough of our thoughts on ourselves to light ourselves up, so that we may see ourselves as we are, just as it is fine to use elec-

tricity for purposes of illumination.

But it is destructive to anyone to turn his thoughts on himself. Probably few persons ever took their own lives as the result of pondering that which lay outside of themselves.

Thinking too much about oneself will develop a self-centered state of mind that is not good! It sets up a condition of selfishness. It may turn into a state of self-pity, of brooding, of melancholia. An man can think so much about a wrong done him that he will shoot off another man's head about a dime. The self-thinker is likely to develop all sorts of ailments, physical, mental, spiritual, real and unreal.

The human being with his ability to analyze, is in a difficult position. He must think about himself enough to make himself straight, but not enough to make himself crooked. He must think about himself enough to make himself unselfish, but not enough to make himself selfish. He must think about himself enough to make himself an individual, yet not enough to make himself aloof. He must think enough about himself to look out for himself, yet not so much that he fails to look out for others.

Yes, the human being is in a difficult position. He is beset on every hand by trials, temptations and troubles. He has not only to watch himself, but to watch the rest of the world and if his foot slips, that is just too bad.

This is a stern world, and it teaches stern lessons. Yet, we are all expected to learn our lessons—white, black, yellow, red, brown — or we should not be here.

There is just one thing to do. We are here. We must make the best of it and the most of it; to do that, we must hang on, use such judgment as we have, to the best of our ability, and be unwaveringly faithful until the logical normal day of deliverance.

Crime - 1933

North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N. C. NEWS

JUN 4 1933

They Mean Business.

Beaufort, N. C. News

NORTH CAROLINA'S CRIMINAL CASES

Analyzing the biennial report of the attorney general, covering the criminal cases reported to that office during the period from July 1, 1930, to July 1, 1932, the University News Letter brings out a fact which must excite curiosity:

The data covers a total of 61,404 cases tried in the superior courts and in courts below the superior courts of North Carolina, or a yearly average of 30,702 cases; and the News Letter says that the negro criminal rate is higher than the white rate, although there were 38,457 white and 22,639 negro cases disposed of during the two-year period. Further, "for every female criminal case there were thirteen male cases." The percentage of convictions was high, the 61,404 cases tried resulting in 46,000 convictions. One-third of all the cases had to do with violation of the prohibition laws, the other leading crimes numerically being larceny and receiving, assault with deadly weapons, violation of motor vehicle laws, assault and battery, and passing worthless checks.

But the curious thing is the great variation on the basis of population in the number of criminal trials reported from different counties. Taking five of the counties which include larger cities, Guilford, Buncombe, Forsyth, Durham and Mecklenburg, there is not such a wide divergence as to the first four named. Guilford, with a yearly average of 607 criminal cases, had 219 inhabitants per case; Durham, with 405 cases, had 166 inhabitants per case; Buncombe, with 602 cases, had 162 inhabitants per case; and Forsyth, with 772 cases, had 150 inhabitants per case. Mecklenburg, however, with a yearly average of 3,225 cases, had one case for every 39.6 inhabitants. Stanly county and Haywood county "are close together in population," but Stanly county reported a yearly average of only 44 cases, or one case for every 686 inhabitants, whereas Haywood reported a yearly average of 779 cases, or one for every 36.3 inhabitants.

The News Letter attempts no explanation of this remarkable discrepancy. "Why one county should have a rate nineteen times as high as another county, we do not profess to know," it says. But the figures as reported raise questions which invite dependable answers. Can it actually be that Burke county has a yearly average of but 93 criminal cases, or one case for every 316 people, while Vance county has a yearly average of 587 cases, or one case for every 46 people? We cite these two counties because they cannot be far apart in population, yet one is pictured as having more than six times as many criminal cases than the other. Why? Is it that the reports from some counties have been complete and from other counties incomplete? It is that the authorities are more vigorous in bringing prosecutions in some counties than in other counties? It is that there is actually more

crime in some counties than in other counties, and if so why?

The discrepancies revealed by the News Letter's study of the figures are certainly extraordinary. There is need for a further study which will throw light on the situation to which the News Letter has called attention.—Asheville Citizen.

NEW BERN, N. C. SUN JOURNAL

JUL 6 1933
Criminal Cases

During that period from July 1, 1930, to July 1, 1932, an average of one citizen of the county in 72 per year became involved in some criminal court including superior court and those of lesser rank. But eighteen of the counties of the state showed a higher percentage of their citizens so involved, while eighty-one showed fewer criminal cases in comparison with the number of inhabitants. It has a yearly average of 32 criminal cases or one for each 528.3 inhabitants. Jones county had a criminal case for each 156.7 inhabitants; Onslow one for each 97.9 inhabitants; Craven, one for each 72 inhabitants; and Pamlico one for each 38.3 inhabitants. Pamlico's record is next to the highest in the state.

These are the figures presented in the University of North Carolina News Letter, as compiled from the recent biennial report of the attorney general of North Carolina. The state's yearly average for the two-year period was one criminal case disposed of for each 193 inhabitants.

The figures may be interpreted a number of ways. It is pointed out by the News Letter, for instance, that the negro criminal rate is higher than the white rate although there were 38,457 white and 22,639 negro cases disposed of in the two-year period. Here the negro and white populations are more evenly divided, though the state has more than twice as many white people as negroes. Law enforcement and efforts to clear court dock-

The distinguished jurist apparently overlooked the fact that the Negro, perhaps unlearned and certainly not in the habit of making speeches to juries, was on trial for a specific charge of law violation, and not for speech-making. The law provides that any defendant is supposed innocent until his guilty is proved, and nowhere in the law is there any sentence contingent upon a defendant's speech to the jury. We are strongly of the opinion that the judge overstepped his bounds in the colored man's case, and furthermore believe that the judge has heard many, many speeches before juries which might well be termed "foolish," but which were delivered by members of the bar. The ends of justice are certainly not met by such a course of action.

WINSTON SALEM, N. C. JOURNAL

JUN 28 1933

Carolina Comment

NOT MEETING ENDS OF JUSTICE

Judge Stack has brought a considerable amount of criticism upon himself in the past few days by adding three months to a Negro's sentence because the black appeared as his own counsel, and in the opinion of the judge, made a "fool speech" to the jury.

Over in Winston-Salem, a village to the north of here, there has flourished among the lower classes, of which this village has a surprising supply, a system known variously as the lottery, the numbers racket, the butter-and-egg pool. No more immoral than any other form of gambling, this system is unusually vicious in that it employs solicitors to make the rounds of the colored population and the lower, less intelligent of the whites, pimping for small bets which will be returned a hundred-fold provided

A. The agent turns in his takings;

B. The head man turns honest;

C. The lucky number turns up.

Candor compels us to admit that Charlotte, no less than the village of Winston-Salem, is ridden with this racket or system or whatever you choose to call it. Unlike the simple slot machine, which stands inarticulate awaiting suckers, it avails itself here too of the pressure of salesmanship. Unlike the crap game, which is dog eat dog, it flourishes because it permits men of sharp sense (and some say prominence) to prey on those who have only a blind wish to get much for little. Unlike the stock market, occasionally it permits someone to come out ahead.

Yet in this village of Winston-Salem they bid fair to rid themselves of this racket that is not only illegal but dishonest as well. They take it seriously; so that when the cops turn up a racketeer everybody feels pretty sure is guilty they do not leave his trial to the busy city solicitor but press into cooperation a special prosecutor who is in position to devote more time and effort to the case.

Over here, of course, it is fairly useless to talk about prosecution. First catch your rabbit.

NEWS

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NEW BERN, N. C.

SUN JOURNAL

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C. *The lucky number turns up;* counties which include larger cities, Guilford, Buncombe, and Mecklenburg, there is an average of 528.3 inhabitants. Jones county had 156.7 inhabitants. Jones county had 156.7 inhabitants. Jones county had 156.7 inhabitants.

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ets might have made a showing; and it is apparent that violation of the prohibition laws was the leading crime for both years.

Another phase of the question, one deserving serious consideration in the counties which have most cases, is the cost of crime.

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WINSTON SALEM, N. C.
JOURNAL

JUN 28 1963

Carolina Comment

NOT MEETING ENDS OF JUSTICE
(Salisbury Post)

Judge Stack has brought a considerable amount of criticism upon himself in the past few days by adding three months to a Negro's sentence because the black appeared as his own counsel, and in the opinion of the judge, made a "fool speech" to the jury.

The Biblical Recorder makes the charge that capital punishment in North Carolina has become in practice at least a most vicious type of class legislation. Only the "pore white" and the "nigger" are ever sent to the electric chair by the State. "A law," says *The Recorder*, "that discriminates, especially when a life is at issue, should be abolished."

In its brief but pointed editorial *The Recorder* does not state the facts which support its statement but the facts are available. In 1929 the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare issued a special bulletin in which were considered all the cases of electrocution in North Carolina. Since then more men, "pore whites and niggers," have gone to the chair, but there is no indication that the percentages found then have been changed by the subsequent executions.

That bulletin showed that in 20 years 200 persons had been admitted to the State prison convicted of capital crimes. Of this total 149 were Negroes, 50 were white men and one was a white woman. Of these Negroes 44.3 per cent received commutations, while 66.7 per cent of the whites were saved from execution by executive clemency or new trials. In all 94 persons were electrocuted, of whom 81 were Negroes and 13 were white men.

Of these 94 men, black and white, 71 per cent could not read nor write. At the time this study was made only one man electrocuted by the State had ever completed high school. Only one Negro and five white men had ever gone so far in school as the sixth grade.

Since the poor are the most numerous, it would not be surprising that the majority of capital crimes and the majority of executions for capital crimes were among them. Nevertheless the very low educational level of the executed, the low percentage of clemency to Negroes as compared to whites, and the fact that although men of wealth and place have been tried for capital crimes, not one has ever been executed, indicates that the State has exercised its power to take life only against the weakest and most defenseless of its citizens.

The law loses its majesty when the scales of justice cease to balance. Capital punishment which is carried out only against the ignorant and the poor makes a bully of justice and the State a discriminator in the exaction of blood

When one of their own race is in trouble the colored people are close-mouthed. As an officer puts it, they "close up like clams."

But the recent capture of a colored man who is alleged to have slain another here some weeks ago—a capture, incidentally, which should win commendation for county and city officers—serves to remind that among the better class of colored people many wonder if criminals of their race are punished severely enough. Their bitterness, as discreetly expressed, is not directed particularly against the alleged slayer in jail. They are wishing him as an individual no more severe punishment than any other. The whole truth of it is—and are they not right?—that a colored man or woman who slays another is seldom, if ever, punished as severely as is a white man or woman who slays another white man or woman.

For that reason, these law-abiding colored people point out, life is valued too cheaply among their race. Think back over killings among the colored race and chances are that you will find they have a basis for that belief. The average negro slayer of another negro usually gets a sentence around 4 to 6 years, the run being from one year to 10. When a white man kills another white man the average sentence runs from 15 years to life. Who will say that that does not, to a certain extent, explain why there are more killing among the colored people. With such a precedent a colored man on a rampage may be led to say to himself, "I kill this man, all I'll have to do will be two or three years on the roads." If he knew that he would receive from 15 years to life, perhaps a seat in the death chair, isn't it likely that he would think the second time before raising his hand to slay a fellow man.

Life means just as much to the colored as to the white. Are they not right in wondering why human life is not valued as highly in their race as in the white? They reason quietly among themselves that as long as slayers are given short prison terms, killings will continue with an average of one for every two or three brawls.

Under the law of North Carolina it is perfectly safe, so far as danger of electrocution is concerned, to secure the murder of anyone in the State. It is only necessary to hire an ignorant killer to do the actual bloody job. The electric chair does not reach so far as the true author of the killing.

This is not a hypothetical case for law students, but a situation which exists in flesh and blood in two instances in North Carolina today. A white man and an educated Negro are under prison sentences for planning and bringing about two murders with the same motives of profiting by insurance. Two ignorant Negroes are sentenced to death for the commission of the actual crimes.

As long as capital punishment is the law of the State, there is every reason why the two crude black killers who murdered at the hire of the other men and for no other motive should be electrocuted. If there is any man who should be electrocuted it is the killer for hire. At the same time it is a monstrous injustice in the law when the principal in the enterprise of murder for profit is not subject to electrocution while the agent who did the actual killing for less profit is electrocuted by the State.

On Friday at the State Prison, Johnny Lee is scheduled to die in the electric chair, while Asa D. Herring, educated Negro who hired him to do the killing has safely escaped the chair with a long sentence of imprisonment. Judge Frizelle who presided over the trial, the solicitor who secured the conviction of both men, and other citizens of Harnett county where the murder was committed have urged the Governor to commute Lee's sentence—not on the grounds that Lee ought not to die but on the grounds that since the law permits the educated Herring, the true author of the crime, to escape death, his agent ought not to die.

Upon Governor Ehringhaus' decision rests not only the fate of Lee but also that of another Negro, Theodore Cooper, in an identical case from Durham, where both the man who planned the murder and the man who was murdered were white men. Governor Ehringhaus, it is stated, is expected to take the view that despite the obvious injustice under the law he cannot interfere with the execution of these two hired killers. He is, of course, powerless to provide that true justice which would be served by sending the two principals to the chair with their less intelligent agents.

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Upon Governor Ehringhaus' decision rests not only the fate of Lee but also that of another Negro, Theodore Cooper, in an identical case from Durham, where both the man who planned the murder and the man who was murdered were white men. Governor Ehringhaus, it is stated, is expected to take the view that despite the obvious injustice under the law he cannot interfere with the execution of these two hired killers. He is, of course, powerless to provide that true justice which would be served by sending the two principals to the chair with their less intelligent agents.

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Nevertheless, realizing as he does the fundamental injustices which the law has permitted, the Governor could intervene in these cases not for the sake of the killers on death row, who deserve no intervention, but for the sake of even-handed justice in North Carolina. He

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

AUG 24 1933
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The task before Governor Ehringhaus is not one of clemency for the condemned but of the preservation of the balance in the scales of justice in the State.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

SEP 15 1933

Misplaced Sympathy.

William Hughes, referred to by The News and Observer as a "demented" Negro, has been sent to the roads for twelve months for "tampering with" trains on the Seaboard Railway at Raleigh. Said "tampering" seems to have consisted of projecting with the air-brakes and uncoupling cars, making railroading both more laborious and more hazardous for the trainmen.

It seems to us that here is an occasion which those who wish to worry over the possible inequalities of the law as it is applied to colored people hereabouts might use to better advantage than petitioning the governor to spare the life of one like Johnny Lee of Harnett, who killed a man for \$75.

Hughes, if demented, does not belong in a prison camp. He should be restrained from pranking with railroad property, it is true; but there is nothing in road camp life as observed in North Carolina that is calculated to repair a damaged intellect.

As for Johnny the hired killer, it seems to us that if the State of North Carolina is going to use its hot seat here could be no other type of criminal making fitter subject matter. The fact that Johnny's client escapes with thirty years does not prove anything save perhaps contributory negligence on the part of our legislature for not including in its murder statute those who inspire as well as those who effect the crime.

HENDERSONVILLE,
N. C.
TIMES NEWS

AUG 25 1933

NEWSPAPERS' OPINIONS

UNDER-AGE DRIVERS

At the recent session of the superior court in Hertford county a 15-year-old white boy, tried for manslaughter for driving his truck into a filling station and killing the proprietor, was acquitted by the jury. At the same session a negro truck driver tried for manslaughter for a like offense, was convicted and sentenced to a three-to-five year term in prison.

Judge R. Hunt Parker, after the jury found the white boy not guilty, delivered what a dispatch to The News and Observer says was "perhaps the most scathing denunciation of a jury ever heard in Hertford county."

"Gentlemen, I am sorely disappointed at your verdict," he said. "This is the most flagrant miscarriage of justice I have ever seen in my court. The evidence in the case was plain, unmistakable and uncontradicted, that the boy was driving his truck contrary to law, that he left the highway, struck this man, and caused his death. And yet

you have said the boy is not guilty. Gentlemen, you are discharged."

The negro had been convicted but had not yet been sentenced when this rebuke was addressed to the jury. The judge calling him to the bar said: "I have had before me this week two cases of manslaughter growing out of killings by truck; one of the accused being a negro, the other a white boy. Of the two, the boy is perhaps the guiltier. The boy is free at the hands of the jury, and it now becomes my duty to sentence the negro." The sentence was then pronounced.

In the trial of the negro the evidence was sharply conflicting as to the speed of the truck and the position on the highway of the man who was killed. In the trial of the white boy, the defendant offered no evidence, and four eye-witnesses testified that the boy was breaking the highway law.

It is an old story: discrimination in a court of so-called justice against the poor and friendless. But what we have in mind at the moment is another aspect of the episode, the fact that the driver of one of the death-dealing trucks was only 15 years old.

The law of the state forbids anybody less than 16 years old to drive an automobile. Yet, according to the newspaper report of the trial, nothing was said about this. It seems to us that a charge

of violating the age-limit law should have been brought against the father of the boy, or the owner of the truck, or both.

The extent to which the law is violated is scandal. Every day, on the streets and highway in North Carolina, one sees automobiles, driven by boys under 16, and the authorities do nothing about it. We should like to see the highway patrol, sheriffs, and police make a round-up of parents who allow their cars to be driven by children, and when the round-up is made we should like to see stiff penalties meted out. A few sizeable fines, accompanied by the proper publicity, would do much to discourage this dangerous practice.

Chapel Hill Weekly

CONCORD, N. C.

TRIBUNE

SEP 4 1933

OLD-TIME LAW.

Charlotte Observer.

An old-time law in South Carolina against stealing corn from a field has been revived in York county. Two negroes caught in the act have been sentenced to one month each on the chain gang. The Yorkville Enquirer is inclined to vindicate this law by reason of the fact that time was when the crop fields in that state were practically ravaged by thieves—and the law put a stop to it, to maintenance of stability at husking time.

CONCORD, N. C.

TRIBUNE

SEP 7 1933

THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF
"COMPROMISE" VERDICTS.

Why are the courts plagued so much nowadays with "compromise" verdicts? The public has seen so much of this sort of thing going on that when an important case is called there are always prophecies as to what the verdict will be, usually with the defendant getting off about as light as the public predicted.

The courts have accepted verdicts in many cases because they know juries will not convict under certain circumstances, and juries reach these "compromises" in most instances because they don't want to go the limit—especially if capital punishment is involved—but at the same time they feel the defendants are

guilty of something and therefore should be given some punishment.

Concerning cases of this class The Statesville Daily says:

Gus Pasley, negro, was tried in Mecklenburg Superior court last week for murder, charged with killing a Charlotte policeman in 1930. Apparently there was a strong case of circumstantial evidence and Pasley would more than likely have been convicted—negroes charged with killing officers have to prove themselves innocent beyond the shadow of a doubt if they secure safe deliverance. But fortunately for Pasley he had been employed on a New Jersey truck farm in the summer of 1930, at the time the policeman was killed. His employers, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Conoway, heard of Pasley's trouble. They came all the way to Charlotte at their own expense to testify for Pasley. They were fortified with canceled checks and records of Pasley's employment on their farm at the time the policeman was killed. They had no interest in the case except to see that justice was done one who was unable to defend himself. The jury naturally accepted their testimony and returned a verdict of not guilty which Judge Harding, presiding, declared "a just decision."

But notwithstanding the direct and sustained evidence establishing the alibi, the jury deliberated more than a half day before returning a verdict. One of the jurors explained, The Observer reports, that from the outset nine members of the jury stood for acquittal. The other three held out for a half day for some sort of compromise verdict, possibly manslaughter. The evidence of the prejudice that would have found the negro guilty of something, seemingly on general principles, is as strong as the prejudice was outrageous. In the face of indisputable evidence that the accused was in another State when the policeman was killed, 25 per cent. of the jurors would have convicted him of something to make sure that he was punished, whether he was guilty or not.

These "compromise verdicts" have become the bane of court procedure. In the case of a negro charged with serious offending, one that

hypocrites, just as the court is unable to set aside a compromise verdict, since that may be another trial impossible. But these verdicts have become so common, and so often a miscarriage of justice, that something should be done about them. A way might be found but for the lawyers, who oppose any increase of the probability of punish-ment for the guilty.

Often these "compromises" could be avoided if the verdict if the evidence were courageous and energetic enough to do what they are supposed to do. In many cases the solicitor had rather accept a "compromise" than to work up and prosecute a case, and in other cases he's often afraid he'll incur the ill will of somebody if he goes

character are notoriously flagrant miscarriage

HENDERSONVILLE,

N. C.

TIMES NEWS

AUG 25 1933

NEWSPAPERS' OPINIONS

UNDER-AGE DRIVERS

At the recent session of the superior court in Hertford county a 15-year-old white boy, tried for manslaughter for driving his truck into a filling station and killing the proprietor, was acquitted by the jury. At the same session a negro truck driver, about the same age, was convicted for a like offense, was sentenced to a three-to-five year term in prison.

Judge R. Hunt Parker, after the jury found the white boy not guilty, delivered what a dispatch accompanied by the proper publicity, would discourage this dangerous practice. The News and Observer says was "perhaps the most scathing denunciation of a jury ever heard in Hertford county."

CONCORD, N. C.

TRIBUNE

SEP 4 1933

OLD-TIME LAW.

"Gentlemen, I am sorely disappointed at your verdict," he said. "This is the most flagrant miscarriage of justice I have ever seen in my court. The evidence in the case was plain, unmistakable and uncontradicted, that the boy was driving his truck contrary to law, that he left the highway, struck this man, and caused his death. And yet you have said the boy is not guilty. Gentlemen, you are discharged."

The negro had been convicted but had not yet been sentenced when this rebuke was addressed to the jury. The judge calling him to the bar said: "I have had before me this week two cases of manslaughter growing out of killings by truck; one of the accused being a negro, the other a white boy. Of the two, the boy is perhaps the guiltier. The boy is free at the hands of the jury, and it now becomes my duty to sentence the negro." The sentence was then pronounced.

TRIBUNE

SEP 7 1933

THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF "COMPROMISE" VERDICTS.

In the trial of the negro the evidence was sharp, conflicting as to the speed of the truck and the position on the highway of the man who was killed. In the trial of the white boy, the defendant offered no evidence, and four eye-witnesses testified that the boy was breaking the highway law.

It is an old story: discrimination in a court of law, usually with the defendant getting off so-called justice against the poor and friendless about as light as the public predicted. But what we have in mind at the moment is another aspect of the episode, the fact that the driver of one of the death-dealing trucks was only 15 years old.

The law of the state forbids anybody less than 16 years old to drive an automobile. Yet, according to the newspaper report of the trial, nothing was said about this. It seems to us that a charge

of violating the age-limit law should have been brought against the father of the boy, or the owner of the truck, or both.

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has no friends to aid, the prosecution rather than the defendant is given the benefit of the doubt, if any. The idea is that if one of the type isn't guilty of the crime as charged he is more than likely guilty of something else and should be punished on general principles. But the compromise verdict more frequently appears in favor of the accused if he has sufficient influence to make a strong fight. Verdicts of manslaughter or second degree murder are rendered when the evidence shows first degree murder or nothing. The jury ignores the law and the evidence deliberately to favor the accused. Not infrequently verdicts of this character are notoriously flagrant miscarriage

hypocrites, just as the court is unable to set aside a compromise verdict, since that may render another trial impossible. But these verdicts have become so common, and so often a gross miscarriage of justice, that something should be done about them. A way might be found but for the lawyers, who oppose any thing that increases the probability of punishment for the guilty. Often these "compromises" could be avoided if solicitors were courageous and energetic enough to do what they are supposed to do. In many cases the solicitor had rather accept a "compromise" than to work up and prosecute a case, and in other cases he's often afraid he'll incur the ill will of somebody if he goes

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Between lawyers who want the least possible punishment for their clients, juries which refuse to inflict the limit, and solicitors who are more concerned with their own office-holdings than the court's business, our courts are sorely afflicted.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
June 20, 1933

North Carolina's Criminal Cases

Analyzing the biennial report of the attorney general, covering the criminal cases reported to that office during the period from July 1, 1930, to July 1, 1932, the University News Letter brings out a fact which must excite curiosity.

The data covers a total of 61,404 cases tried in the superior courts and in courts below the superior courts of North Carolina, or a yearly average of 30,702 cases; and the News Letter says that the negro criminal rate is higher than the white rate, although there were 38,457 white and 22,639 negro cases disposed of during the two-year period. Further, "for every female criminal case there were thirteen male cases." The percentage of convictions was high. The 61,404 cases tried resulting in 46,000 convictions. One-third of all the cases had to do with violation of the prohibition laws, the other leading crimes numerically being larceny and receiving, assault with deadly weapons, violation of motor vehicle laws, assault and battery, and passing worthless checks.

But the curious thing is the great variation on the basis of population in the number of criminal trials reported from different counties. Taking five of the counties which include larger cities, Guilford, Buncombe, Forsythe, Durham and Mecklenburg, there is not such a wide divergence as to the first four named. Guilford, with a yearly average of 607 criminal cases, had 219 inhabitants per case; Durham, with 405 cases, had 166 inhabitants per case; Buncombe, with 602 cases, had 162 inhabitants per case; and Forsythe, with 7472 cases, had 150 inhabitants per case. Mecklenburg, however, with a yearly average of 3,225 cases, had one case for every 39.6 inhabitants. Stanly county and Haywood county "are close together in population," but Stanly county reported a yearly average of only 44 cases, or one case for every 686 inhabitants, whereas Haywood reported a yearly average of 779 cases, or one for every 36.3 inhabitants.

The News Letter attempts no explanation of this remarkable discrepancy. "Why one county should have a rate nineteen times as high as another county, we do not profess to know," it says. But the figures as reported raise ques-

tions which invite dependable answers. Can it actually be that Burke county has a yearly average of but 93 criminal cases, or one case for every 316 people, while Vance county has a yearly average of 587 cases, or one case for every 46 people? We cite these two counties be-

cause they cannot be far apart in population yet one is pictured as having more than six times as many criminal cases than the other. Why? Is it that the reports from some counties have been complete and from other counties incomplete? Is it that the authorities are more vigorous in bringing prosecutions in some counties than in other counties? Is it that there is actually more crime in some counties than in other counties, and if so, why?

The discrepancies revealed by the News Letter's study of the figures are certainly extraordinary. There is need for a further study which will throw light on the situation to which the News Letter has called attention.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TELEGRAM

SEP 5 1933

Maybe A Jailer Is Needed

Three prisoners escaped from the Pitt county jail on Saturday night, three prisoners known to be vicious and, given an opportunity to escape, desperate. Yet, they procured saw blades, cut through their cells and calmly climbed to freedom. Since then on has been captured. Two others are believed to be surrounded. If they are cornered and have been able to procure firearms, they will not hesitate to shoot. Yet, the Pitt county jailer, who lives in the jail building, was so careless in his treatment of the prisoners that they obtained saw blades and then escaped without creating any commotion.

Prison breaks are becoming monotonously frequent. Four men slipped out of the State's prison Sunday night after sawing bars, tearing ceiling away, and lowering themselves by sheets to the ground from the top of the building. A gang of twelve Negroes prized boards from the floors of a Wake county prison camp and escaped while the remainder of the camp attended religious services.

In Nash county two men recognized as desperate were entrusted to the care of the sheriff. From the time he received the prisoners until they were delivered to State authorities, a careful guard was maintained over the men. The sheriff was glad indeed to be rid of them. But there was no danger that they were about to escape.

This is not the first time that prisoners have gained their liberty from Pitt county jail in recent weeks. If a jail is no stronger than the Pitt county affair seems to be, then of course a county is spending money foolishly in paying good tax money to support it. However, our idea is that a change in jailers occasionally would prove wholesome and valuable. The men who

walked out of the Pitt prison were confined here for several days. There is nothing modern about the city jail. But police are on the job. When convicts are placed here for safe keeping, they have been thoroughly searched. Nobody has an opportunity to pass saw blades to them. And when prisoners are able to gain their freedom without much trouble, particularly prisoners who are a menace, it is time for new help to be employed to guard them.

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TELEGRAM

SEP 28 1933

Disorder In Prisons

Something is radically wrong in North Carolina prison camps. There are too many escapes. Perhaps a dozen reasons, all of which have some bearing on the epidemic, could be cited. Doubtless it could be said that guards are too lax in their handling of prisoners; that discipline is not what may be expected reasonably. There is always a percentage of prisoners who will not try to break. In such a category fall those who are willing to pay their debt and have it off their hands and the smaller class of prisoners who are as content in prison as they could be outside.

Overcrowding is probably another reason for the dissatisfaction.

Sooner or later prisons will have to become prisons; there must be some assurance that men sentenced to serve a number of months or a number of years will fulfill that obligation. Otherwise the courts will work under greater difficulties than at the present. It is a current feeling that the chances for escape are better than fifty-fifty. That, of course, is not true. The number of re-captures reduces to a small number the successful breaks.

There is little attempt to segregate prisoners under the State Highway system, but it should be added that the recent changes made by the Legislature have hardly given time for any suitable policy to be worked out. But segregation should be a fixed goal to be attained at the earliest possible moment. Treatment for prisoners who have demonstrated their incapacity on several occasions to remain within the confines of the law should be different from that of men who are first offenders and who are young. No good will come from confining Negroes and whites in the same camps. No advantage can

GREENSBORO, N. C.

RECORD

OCT 10 1933

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Chief Wooten has been dealing very firmly with members of the police department during recent weeks. He is to be applauded for his decision and courage. No man who does not have the tact that a policeman ought to have should be allowed to serve in such a position. Courtesy and proper use of force should always be exercised by a policeman.

The rather numerous suspension that have issued from the office of the chief of police recently do not imply that department is not being carefully and adequately supervised. In fact, it indicates just the opposite. Chief Wooten does not believe in repeated reprimands that accomplish nothing. He is fair in weighing all the circumstances involved in a particular case, and he is just as firm and courageous in acting when action appears necessary and advisable.

Furthermore, Chief Wooten believes in letting the public know what goes on in the police department. He tells the public what it has a right to know and does not rest content for it to ascertain pertinent information the best way it can.—Winston-Salem Journal.

be obtained from throwing prisoners in the easiest camp to reach.

Then, guards should be paid sufficiently to encourage capable men to seek employment.

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GREENSBORO, N. C. RECORD

FEB 8 1933

Where Is Justice?

The local story of the Wake Superior court in yesterday's News and Observer must have compelled every thoughtful reader to ask himself "Where is justice?" and "What has become of the old rule that justice is blind and is no respecter of persons?"

Two cases involving insurance agents came up for trial. Here is the brief story of what happened in the case when parties robbed an insurance agent:

Labron Crump, Riley Jones and Frank Wall, negroes, living in the Oberlin section, were sent to prison yesterday for holding up and robbing J. C. Clark, an insurance agent, of \$13 in cash.

Crump and Jones pleaded guilty to the charge and were given from one to three years each. Wall, convicted by a jury, received a sentence of from two to five years.

The second case was one in which J. C. Hardin, an insurance agent and golf king of Raleigh, pleaded guilty of violating the insurance laws by collecting premiums for a company he did not represent. Hardin collected \$1,078.50 from Rev. J. Powell Tucker as premiums on an insurance policy after it had lapsed. Dr. Tucker kept on paying his premiums to Hardin in the belief that his policy was in operation. Hardin took the premium money, used it, and Dr. Tucker only found out that he was being robbed by Hardin after he had paid a large sum. The policy lapsed in December, 1930, for non-payment, and Dr. Tucker paid through November, 1932. Hardin plead guilty. If the negroes were guilty of "robbing" one insurance agent, Hardin, an insurance agent, was guilty of "robbing" a preacher.

What is the difference in the punishment meted out by the Superior court of Wake county: Three negroes who stole \$13 are sent to prison for from one to five years. Hardin, white, who stole \$1,078.50, is fined \$200 and the costs of court. And then he is only compelled to pay one-half the fine and costs now and "the remainder later." His lawyers complained he was "not able to pay

at present."

Moral: Be an insurance man and king of the golf course and steal \$1,078.50 from a preacher who trusts you, but do not dare rob an insurance man of \$13.

Justice is no longer blind. If a man is white and able to retain resourceful lawyers, it only costs him \$200 when he pleads guilty of stealing \$1,078.50, and then he is given time to pay half of that. If he is colored and steals \$13 he must serve a long term in prison.

Is it surprising so many people have lost faith in the courts? This difference in punishment will decrease respect for the administration of justice. It is rather the administration of injustice that these two cases show was practiced in Wake county last week.—Raleigh News and Observer.

RALEIGH, N. C. NEWS OBSERVER

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Oxley Secures Thirty-third Consecutive Commutation Of A Sentence Of Death

Becomes Violent

RALEIGH, N. C.—For the thirty-third consecutive time, Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley has successfully appeared before a governing body of North Carolina, to ask that the life of a doomed prisoner be spared. Jake (Sunshine) Jones, 22, was scheduled to be electrocuted at the State's prison, Raleigh, last Friday morning, but because Governor Ehringhaus extended executive clemency, he did not die.

Jake has led a life of crime since he was brought to the State's Prison, early in 1926, when he was tried and convicted of assault with a deadly weapon on a crippled World War veteran in Haywood County and sentenced to serve five years. He was fifteen years old at that time, and Lieut. Oxley secured an executive order from Governor McLean directing Jake's transfer to the Morrison Training School for delinquent boys.

Soon following his transfer to the school, Jake escaped and was at large until he was arrested on a charge of first degree murder, found guilty, and sentenced to death in the electric chair. It was charged that he shot a Mr. Poole, white filling station operator, on the Wake Forest Road, just north of Raleigh on Federal Highway Number One.

Has Low Mentality

From the day, early in the year 1932, when Jake was first arraigned, Lieut. Oxley made the presentation that Jake was of such low mentality, that he should not be held legally responsible for his acts. Following his conviction, appeal was made to the State Supreme Court, which found "no error" in his trial. Lieut. Oxley then went direct to Governor Gardner and secured two reprieves for this lad during the latter part of the year 1932.

Early in January of this year, just two days before the original date for Jake's execution, Lieut. Oxley again secured a reprieve for thirty days from Governor Ehringhaus, for the purpose of permitting time for further study of the lad's mental condition. Dr. Harry W. Crane, formerly of the staff of the State Hospital at Matteawan, New York, and now professor of abnormal psychology at the University of North Carolina, examined Jake and declared that the boy had the mentality of a child of five years.

Wilmington, N. C. News
Sunday, February 26, 1933

INTER-RACIAL CONFIDENCE

Twenty-four hours before he was slated to die in the chair, SUNSHINE JONES, a Negro of defective mentality was granted a commutation by Governor EHRLINGHAUS and sent to the ward for the criminally insane at the Goldsboro Hospital for the remainder of his natural life.

Behind this act of Executive clemency is the story of a singular devotion to duty and a splendid illustration of the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect between the two races which dominate North Carolina's population.

Heading the Welfare Bureau for Negroes in North Carolina is a former Army officer, himself a Negro, who has contributed much to this feeling of mutual esteem. He is Lieutenant LAWRENCE A. OXLEY. It was Lieutenant OXLEY who investigated the case of JONES and laid his final findings before Governor EHRLINGHAUS and his Executive Counsel. It was the thirty-third recommendation for clemency that he had presented to the Chief Executive and the thirty-third approval by that authority.

The case of SUNSHINE JONES is typical of the work OXLEY does among his own people. JONES was accused of murder and the evidence was overwhelming to the point of eliminating the slightest doubt as to his guilt. But it was shown, thanks to OXLEY's exhaustive investigation, that the man had the mentality of a child and was possibly incapable of determining right from wrong.

More than one Negro has gone to his death in the chair without OXLEY's aid for the simple reason the Welfare Officer does not act from racial prejudices, but only when convinced there is adequate reason why clemency should be extended. It is a splendid tribute to inter-racial relations in North Carolina that three Governors, McLEAN, GARDNER and EHRLINGHAUS, have listened to his pleas.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.
TIMES

FEB 15 1933

ALTERNATIVE

After the death sentence is carried out on a young North Carolina Negro next month, public display is to be made of the body by certain authorities who say that otherwise the members of his race would never believe that the court's decree had been carried out. Probably it has not occurred to them that a less spectacular and more convincing proof would be to permit a

delegation of these people to be present when the penalty is imposed.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

COURIER JOURNAL

FEB 21 1933

THE 1933 LYNCHING SEASON OPENS

Louisiana inaugurates the 1933 mob murder season with a lynching which at this distance appears to combine in about equal proportions a provocative crime and official stupidity.

A middle-aged man had been robbed and murdered and his wife had been assaulted by a Negro who confessed after he was arrested. The slayer was hanged while being conducted by the Bienville Parish Sheriff and his deputies, accompanied by the mob, where he had thrown his weapon.

Ringgold, scene of the crime, has no jail. The prisoner was placed in a garage where a mob quickly surrounded the cordon of deputies guarding it. The Parish contains no cities. Ringgold lies between Lake Bistineau and Black Lake Bay, in a region whose poor drainage is indicated by Red River wriggling across the map like the record of a seismograph attached to the gun arm of a Bienville Sheriff. The existence of a garage and the United Press report of the lawlessness dispatched from Ringgold, prove that the town has automobiles and, therefore, highway as well as telephone connections. The press story, otherwise quite complete in detail as to the officers' conduct, mentions the use of neither to protect the prisoner.

It is quite conceivable that in such a locality the entire neighborhood was aroused by the outrage and that volunteer posse composed the nucleus of the mob. The Sheriff may have had no chance to make the arrest in secret and take his prisoner elsewhere; but, during that prolonged interval which obviously elapsed between the capture and the formation of the mob's purpose, a quick-witted custodian might have got his prisoner into a car by a ruse as easily as to have led that tragic procession to the place of Louisiana's disgrace.

Abhor the practice as one may, the mob spirit in this instance is comprehensible. Likewise it is possible, if not probable, that the Sheriff and his deputies would have sacrificed their lives in vain if they had resisted to the end. With the confessedly guilty man in custody and justice awaiting only its own orderly processes to exact all that a mob could accomplish in the way of retribution, the law had to rely on the minimum amount of intelligence required as a qualification

for the office by the citizenship of Bienville Parish.

INDEPENDENT

Elizabeth City N.C.

MAY 12 1933

Justice? Baloney!

IN a denunciation of capital punishment in Greensboro three weeks ago Dr. A. P. Kephart made the sensational charge that "in North Carolina only the ignorant, the feeble-minded, the poor and the Negro are executed."

Last Friday a Guilford County jury in Greensboro acquitted John Harris, a High Point white man, of the wilful and inexcusable murder of a defenseless Negro.

Judge A. M. Stack rebuked the jury in the following language: "Gentlemen of the jury," said Judge Stack, "you have made a very great mistake. Your verdict is an absolute miscarriage of justice. This defendant was clearly guilty of murder in the first degree, and your verdict is totally a miscarriage of justice. The defense set-up was absolutely ridiculous . . . I never have been so surprised in all my experience at the bar or on the bench at a verdict of a jury as I am in this case. It looks like the law against capital punishment is enforced, as some one said not long ago, unfairly against the weak, the poor and helpless. . . . That poor darkey was shot down in his own home, inside of his own door, by a man that was mad at him and armed with a pistol, and yet the jury brings in a verdict of not guilty. . . . The enforcement of the criminal law in some instances is a disgrace to the state—a disgrace in that juries render verdicts wholly and entirely contrary to all evidence in the case."

But the judge's fiery rebuke does not avenge the death of the poor Negro or increase the respect of the lowly for law in North Carolina. Where the death sentence is involved, only the weak, the ignorant, the feeble-minded, the poor and the Negro can be convicted in the average North Carolina county. A sad commentary upon our civilization.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

APR 27 1933

Is Justice Two-Faced?

In North Carolina only the ignorant, the feeble-minded, the poor and the negro are executed. —Dr. A. C. Kephart, of Woman's college, in an address before the North Carolina Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, in session this week in Greensboro.

This statement, involving as it does an implication tantamount to a direct charge that North Carolina justice is two-faced, apparently must stand, unless and until statistics quoted in support by Dr. Kephart are proved to be incorrect.

Of 200 commitments on capital charges in North Carolina, 81 per cent of the negroes were executed, and only 14 per cent of the whites, says Dr. Kephart. Further, of the sentences commuted, 66 per cent were whites, and only 44 per cent negroes.

Even more arresting, and challenging to lovers of justice, than the foregoing statistics is the statement:

Of 26 men selected at random and given thorough examinations, all were found to be overwhelmingly feeble-minded, insane and psychopathic.

Striking at the old eye-for-an-eye, tooth-for-a-tooth doctrine and in vigorous condemnation of capital punishment, the Greensboro professor says:

The death penalty has always been the resort of ignorance and prejudice and still persists for only two reasons: (1) we have been unable to find out what should be done instead; (2) and we demand vengeance; we want the offender to suffer.

Forget sentimentality. Disregard whatever moral or legal rights or wrongs that may be involved in the question of capital punishment. This fact, proved by experience and by the criminal records of the various states, remains:

Capital punishment does not deter crime.

This, obviously, is among the strongest arguments against infliction of the death penalty.

Crime - 1933

North Carolina

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C. TELEGRAM

AUG 26 1933

What Others Say

NEGRO IN THE CORN PATCH SHOULD HAVE BEEN BANKER

Account of the conviction of Ernest Tatum, Greensboro, who killed the thief instead of merely peeping into his pants, reads like an ancient piece of history in North Carolina criminal courts.

Tatum had some years of corn raising in a growing field when he was interrupted by a shot from the owner.

Also a member of his race. The evidence was complete and the sentence was sixty days on the roads. The corn was of an estimated value of fifteen cents. Sam Dunbar, who was the prosecuting witness, testified, according to the Greensboro Daily News as follows:

"I'd been missing corn, your honor, he said, in beginning his testimony. 'Dey was a night thief and a day thief, so I made up my mind to catch dat night thief. I'm agoin' to get you dat day thief, too.'

'So, jest at nightfall the other night, I gets my gun and creeps up de edge of de field. I gets behind a tree and purty soon I hears somebody pulling corn. I ease up closer and sees dis fellow. Den I levels my gun to shoot him, but change my mind 'count of dat would tear him up too bad. So I drops down and shoots him in de laigs and did he leave! Boss, I mean he left dat field.'

"Did he take his corn with him?" Judge Rives asked.

"No, suh," the witness replied showing a sack Tatum was alleged to have had. The sack had several bullet holes in it. Tatum's legs were hit by several of the birdshot fired at him by Dunbar.

No doubt the sentence was in all respects legal. Tatum, doubtless, is a character who will create less trouble on the roads than anywhere else. But at the same time his punishment does not sit so well in view of suspended sentences and trade-in agreements by which courts relieve embezzling bank officers and other defaulters and violators of trusts. Sixty days for fifteen cents worth of corn suggests Judge Shaw.

We mind an old case in Raleigh in which a little Negro was indicted and put on trial for the theft of a watermelon. Representative Ed Pou was then solicitor. The defendant had employed an ancient lawyer, but he was not present. The little darkey conducted his own defense, which consisted in cross-examining witnesses. He refused to address the jury and

the solicitor also let the case ride. The jury bobbed their heads together and acquitted without leaving the box. Just then the belated counsel came puffing into court.

"Run, Little Nigger, run!" exclaimed Mr. Pou. "If your lawyer had not been five minutes late, you would have gone to the roads for a year!"

However, Dunbar, the prosecuting witness, came out of this curious mix-up with flying colors. He could have killed the thief instead of merely peeping into his pants. He used discretion and showed a knowledge of the law quite superior to that of the preacher who some years ago shot a boy out of his cherry tree, with fatal effect.

RALEIGH, N. C. NEWS OBSERVER

AUG 24 1933

CLEAN THEM OUT NOW!

John Jones is no Al Capone and J. C. Johnson is no Three-Fingered Humphries, but neither is Raleigh a Chicago and on the smaller stage of Raleigh it is as imperative that the activities of these underworldings be curbed, as it is to end racketeering in the larger cities.

Less than two weeks ago Judge Wiley Barnes let these two men off in the City Court with fines of \$100 each, despite the fact that Chief Barbour characterized them as the biggest racketeers in Raleigh and "a menace to the community." At that time, too, Johnson was under sentence on an assault charge and awaiting the Supreme Court's decision on his appeal. Clyde Perry and Bert Young, tried with Johnson and Jones on the liquor charge, were acquitted by Judge Barnes.

Since then: Last Saturday officers seized 73 gallons of whiskey in the house of a Negro in House Creek township which they described as "Jones' liquor."

On Sunday night Bert Young and Clyde Perry were arrested at the gang's dispensary at 11 North West Street on a liquor charge. On Monday night T. B. Saunders, a young man of House Creek township, was attacked near Edwards Mill by seven men who accused him of having tipped the police off to the liquor found in the Negro's house Saturday night. He was badly beaten and escaped worse punishment by playing dead. He positively identified as his assailants, John Jones, J. C.

Johnson, Clyde Perry and Bert Young. All ly: "Under the law of North Carolina it is perfectly safe, so but Johnson, who is said to have gone off to view the Century of Progress at the World's Fair in Chicago, have been arrested. They are under bonds for trial next Tuesday by Magistrate V. L. Biggs.

On Tuesday night C. E. Dickenson, a traveling salesman, went to the gang's dispensary at 11 North West Street. When he mentioned the arrests in the Saunders case Clyde Perry and Bert Young jumped on him and beat him badly. They were arrested and readily gave \$100 bond each.

While the Jones gang was putting in these four days of activity, another gang which has its hang out at the home of Mrs. C. C. Hamilton at 514 1-2 West Morgan Street on Tuesday brutally beat a young woman who was suspected by them of causing a liquor raid on that house earlier in the day.

The time has come when it is imperative that Raleigh rid itself of these tough small-time gangsters before they get any more arrogant in their defiance of the law. Unless the police and the courts of the city of Raleigh can deal with them now and rid the town of them now, there is little chance that they will be able to clean them out in the future.

For such men, fines are licenses. What is needed in every case in which they are involved are speedy trials and long sentences.

PETERSBURG, VA. PROGRESS-INDEX

AUG 25 1933

Puzzling Cases

GOVERNOR EHRINGHAUS, of North Carolina, now has before him two difficult cases representing applicants for clemency. They are those of a white man and a colored man convicted of murder. In each case it was proved that the condemned men had been hired to commit the crime for which they are about to pay the extreme penalty. One of the murderers was hired by a white man, the other, an ignorant if not illiterate Negro, was hired by a member of his own race, unusually well educated, to do a certain Negro to death. In each of these cases, while the men who actually committed the crime of murder were sentenced to death, the person who hired them to commit the crime has been found guilty of being an accessory before the fact and given a long prison term. Under North Carolina law the person who hires another to commit the crime of murder cannot be given a death sentence. The Raleigh News & Observer states the law thus:

There is no question concerning the guilt of the white man and the Negro condemned to die. The Governor doubts whether he would be justified in commuting these two sentences to life imprisonment, in view of the unquestioned guilt of the convicted men.

But certainly it is true that to put the two killers to death while permitting the men who hired them to commit the crime of murder to serve penitentiary sentences would demonstrate anything but even-handed justice in the State of North Carolina. Governor Ehringhaus has not announced his decision, but in all probability it will be one which will prevent those who procured the murders from receiving a lighter punishment than the two who actually committed the crimes. Under the Virginia law, we believe, the person who is convicted of having procured a murder is subject to the same punishment as is the person whom he hired to do the actual killing. The North Carolina law should be amended in the interest of justice.

RALEIGH, N. C. NEWS OBSERVER

AUG 24 1933

TO PRESERVE JUSTICE, NOT KILLERS

Under the law of North Carolina it is perfectly safe, so far as danger of electrocution is concerned, to secure the murder of anyone in the State. It is only necessary to hire an ignorant killer to do the actual bloody job. The electric chair does not reach so far as the true author of the killing.

This is not a hypothetical case for law students, but a situation which exists in flesh and blood in two instances in North Carolina today. A white man and an educated Negro are under prison sentences for planning and bringing about two murders with the same motives of profiting by insurance. Two ignorant Negroes are sentenced to death for the commission of the actual crimes.

As long as capital punishment is the law of the State, there is every reason why the two crude black killers who murdered at the hire of the other men and for no other motive should be electrocuted. If there is any man who should be electrocuted it is the killer for hire. At the same time it is a monstrous injustice in the law when the principal in the enterprise of murder for profit is not subject to electrocution while the agent who did the actual killing

for less profit is electrocuted by the State.

On Friday at the State Prison, Johnny Lee but safe from death. The injustice as between is scheduled to die in the electric chair, while the two men had prompted many to beg the Asa D. Herring, educated Negro who hired Governor to commute Lee's sentence. The Governor did not and the logic with which he stated chair with a long sentence of imprisonment his refusal is unassailable. Governor Ehring-Judge Frizelle who presided over the trial, the haus said:

solicitor who secured the conviction of both men, and other citizens of Harnett county where the murder was committed have urged the Governor to commute Lee's sentence—not on the grounds that Lee ought not to die but on the grounds that since the law permits the educated Herring, the true author of the crime, to escape death, his agent ought not to die.

Upon Governor Ehringhaus' decision rests not only the fate of Lee but also that of another Negro, Theodore Cooper, in an identical case from Durham, where both the man who planned the murder and the man who was murdered were white men. Governor Ehringhaus, it is stated, is expected to take the view that despite the obvious injustice under the law he cannot interfere with the execution of these two hired killers. He is, of course, powerless to provide that true justice which would be served by sending the two principals to the chair with their less intelligent agents.

There is without doubt ground for the Governor's position. Neither Lee nor Cooper is entitled to clemency. In the philosophy of capital punishment, there is every reason that these hired killers should die. The law here is not too hard on the killers but too easy on the men who planned and procured the crimes.

Nevertheless, realizing as he does the fundamental injustices which the law has permitted, the Governor could intervene in these cases not for the sake of the killers on death row, who deserve no intervention, but for the sake of even-handed justice in North Carolina. He cannot cure the injustice under which the prin-

ed but he can preserve justice in cases until the General Assembly meets. Then that body could provide for equal justice in the punishment for murder for both the principal and the agent.

The task before Governor Ehringhaus is not one of clemency for the condemned but of the preservation of the balance in the scales of justice in the State.

Raleigh N. C. News & Observer
September 16, 1933

THE GOVERNOR'S LOGIC

Johnnie Lee died in the electric chair at the State Prison yesterday. While he died Asa Herring, educated Negro, who hired Lee to kill by all standards, is a dangerous citizen and a menace to the safety of a community in which insurance policy on the murdered man, walked he resides. The law says that he deserves to

in the prison yard, in prison for thirty years die for the commission of a crime; the law, likewise, says that the man who planned the crime and who was to have profited most from it, who paid ignorant Johnny Lee, must serve not more than thirty years in prison. Yet, the moral responsibility for the crime is fixed on the man who escapes the death penalty. Obviously the law should be adjusted in such instances. The chief perpetrator escapes the severe penalty; the tool pays with his life.

If I commuted this man I would not be surprised if the plea that a killer acted while under the influence of a stronger will of another man should become as common a stock defense as the present plea of low mentality.

If you carry to its logical conclusion the assertion that one man should not be executed for a crime because the law cannot reach another equally guilty man then a crime where three men are equally guilty and only one apprehended it would be necessary to commute the one because of the failure to apprehend the other two.

The suggestion that Johnnie Lee should be commuted because Asa Herring has escaped death in the chair is a dangerous precedent that would be fraught with complications.

Asa Herring may be receiving less punishment than is due him but Johnnie Lee was a killer for money, a man who murdered for \$75. If there is ever justification for capital punishment it is in the case of the killer for hire. As obviously unjust as is Asa Herring's escape that does not mean that the State was unjust in riding the community of a man willing to hire himself out as a murderer merely because the State was not able to give equal punishment to the man who hired him to kill.

The law ought to be changed to permit equal punishment of the procurer of murderer but, unless the State is prepared to abolish capital punishment for all crimes, the death penalty should continue to be exacted from both. The hirers of murderers and murderers for hire are the last who deserve any public pity.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TELEGRAM

SEP 14 1933

Johnny Lee And The Chair

Governor Ehringhaus will not interfere in the electrocution of Johnny Lee, Negro of low mentality, who for \$75 shot another man to death. He was employed to kill by a Negro of more than average intelligence, a man who is serving a sentence of thirty years in prison for his part in the crime.

If Johnny Lee could have been persuaded so easily to take a life in cold blood, Johnny Lee, by all standards, is a dangerous citizen and a menace to the safety of a community in which he resides. The law says that he deserves to

die for the commission of a crime; the law, likewise, says that the man who planned the crime and who was to have profited most from it, who paid ignorant Johnny Lee, must serve not more than thirty years in prison. Yet, the moral responsibility for the crime is fixed on the man who escapes the death penalty. Obviously the law should be adjusted in such instances. The chief perpetrator escapes the severe penalty; the tool pays with his life.

We have no brief for Johnny Lee, although we feel that he is not as guilty as the man who escapes the electric chair. Perhaps in the end the man destined to be confined will have paid the greater penalty, but, as we look at punishment today, nothing is quite as severe as the taking of a man's life.

The next session of the General Assembly should re-write the portion of the criminal statutes which fix prison penalties for the man who procures a murder. If anybody is guilty of the crime it is the man who paid ignorant Johnny Lee \$75 to kill another man.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

STAR

SEP 16 1933

PAID ASSASSINS

The electric chair in North Carolina's state prison yesterday claimed the life of JOHNNIE LEE, a negro, convicted of murder, and in whose behalf thousands of white citizens had appended their signatures asking clemency.

There is no occasion to become concerned over the execution of another killer, but the crime for which LEE paid the penalty stands out, in that it was committed as a purely commercial proposition for the paltry sum of \$75.

It is not necessary to consider even the contention of the defendant that he was doped and out of his mind when the crime was committed. It remains that a human life can be bought in North Carolina for less than \$100 or about the price of a good plug mule, or an unblooded milch cow.

It is not a pleasant thought. True, this particular incident was confined to negroes, but the paid assassin who will kill a member of one race for a price will not stand on racial lines if offered the proper inducement.

We have pilloried Chicago and other large centers for commercialized crime, particularly murder while here in our own rural midst we learn the hired killer has plied his trade for a price which even a big time gangster would probably decline.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

NEWS

SEP 19 1933

THE LAW, SAYS THIS
CORRESPONDENT, OUGHT TO
BE OBSERVED,
EVEN BY POLICEMEN.

Sirs:

A few days ago Gus Pasley, a friendless Negro, was tried for his life on a charge of having killed a policeman. The state relied almost wholly upon a confession which the Negro claimed had been forced from his lips while the policemen had him in fear of his life. Even when the officers told their side of the story it was so repugnant to the court that the judge ruled it out as evidence. Then reputable white people came from a distant state and showed conclusively and to the satisfaction of the jury that the Negro could not have committed the crime for the simple reason that he was several hundred miles away from Charlotte at the time.

That is over now, the accused having been acquitted by an intelligent white jury and under the charge of an impartial court. But what has been done about the treatment of the Negro by the officers? What has the mayor or the city council had to say? If they are going to let such conduct go unnoticed then we had as well dismiss them and let the police run the town. Mr. Editor, life and liberty and human rights ought to be respected even by a policeman. He ought to be made to respect them, and the ones who perpetrated the injustice on that helpless Negro ought to be dismissed without further ado.

S. B. REDWINE.

Charlotte.

Crime - 1933

Ohio.

Police Brutality

The Union

To The Union.

Policemen are for the public's welfare and protection, but they didn't regard their duty Monday night at Carlisle and John Sts.

A Negro woman was beaten unmercifully by a white policeman. His name or number can be had on request, also the lady's name. Over one hundred persons witnessed the disgraceful event. No one offered any assistance, but protested against the policeman's action while women cried. He was halted by the arrival of other officers, who took her to Station X and then released her immediately without questioning.

An Eye Witness.

SHOOTING INVESTIGATED

POLICEMAN CENSURED

Detective Ahrens who shot through premises located at 8006 Amos Ave. Tuesday Sept. 5th, was censured after a complaint by Councilman Perry B. Jackson.

Inspector Cornelius W. Cody, in charge of detectives, lectured to him on using good judgement in the discharge of his fire arm, unless in "self defense" when the case is very urgent, and advised him that it was much better to let a person like this man escape, especially as it turned out that this man was only intoxicated, rather than to have a stray bullet hit and kill some innocent person.

He was also instructed to report to Lieutenant Moffet at Bureau of Arms and receive further instruction in the proper manner of handling fire arms and the discharge of the same.

The shooting occurred when Detective Ahrens was chasing an alleged criminal and shot through premises occupied by Mrs. Malissa Dal-

ton and daughter Elsie Turner, at 8006 Amos Avnue. The bullet went through the walls of the kitchen and dining room.

AUSTIN, TEX.
AMERICAN

NOV 1 1933

Substantial Justice for an Ohio Negro

Ohio is a very progressive state. Joseph Weaver is a negro. Cleveland is his home. He spent 22 months in the Ohio penitentiary "death row." Five times he faced electrocution. Five gubernatorial reprieves were granted. He had been convicted of the murder of a night watchman. Finally, the state supreme court of Ohio granted Weaver a new trial. He was given his liberty which was the complete vindication by a direct verdict of "not guilty." Now he has been awarded compensation of \$12,000 by the county commissioners of Cuyahoga. This award was made possible through legislation enacted by the Ohio legislature at its spring session. Weaver had the compensation coming. Four governors believed him to be an innocent man. The highest court of Ohio gave him a new trial, and the judge of the trial court ordered a jury verdict of acquittal.

It must be hell to be locked in a death cell 22 months. It must be hell for an innocent man, regardless of color, to face five electrocutions in the electric chair, and in the very last analysis of a remarkable case to be given his life and liberty.

WACO, TEX.

TRIBUNE

OCT 30 1933

Substantial Justice

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Crime-1933

When The Brave Get Nutty

It is peculiar how certain people can never consider a Negro brave, fearless and courageous. In the mind of many the Negro is held as a coward, eternally lacking backbone; a timorous poltroon who lacks the spirit to strike back.

It is this sort of reasoning which causes many daily papers to announce occasionally that a Negro ran amuck, or became temporarily unbalanced if because of some justifiable circumstance, a Negro happens to kill one or several white people.

A case in point developed recently at an army post out in Arizona. One lone Negro slaughtered several army officers before he was slain by a member of his own race. We read carefully every paper which carried any information regarding this crime, which, (so far as these white journals are concerned) is still a deep mystery.

It remained for Negro journals on the West Coast to take up the trail of reason and discover that the Negro whom millions of white people assume was crazy, was in fact a sane Negro who finally decided that the only way to appease his manhood was to take the unfortunate steps that he did and slay all whom he apparently had decided to kill.

It remained, however, for the Oklahoma News, local daily, to this week express an unusual opinion in its editorial columns regarding the psychology which dominates the Negro's mental self in crucial moments when most men quiver.

Down at the McAlester prison last week the state of Oklahoma electrocuted a Negro. We do not know much about the record of the man; we assume he was guilty of the offense charged. In fact we are not interested just at this moment as to the particular crime he is alleged to have committed, or whether or not he was guilty. Our attention is directed to his rare conduct and uncommon self possession just an instant before the moment when he knew he would be catapulted into the Great Beyond.

The daily papers carried a story which says that this Negro walked without faltering to his death chair; that when he had taken his seat he asked to be permitted to look at his executioner and addressing him said: "I'm ready; shoot it to me."

Commenting on this queer act, the Oklahoma News says:

"It is doubtful if the poor wretch knew what he was saying or cared. It's possible that he was prepared for his gruesome fate by narcotics or liquor, or more likely, that his mind had cracked under the strain of the hideous ordeal."

We can understand how the editor of the Oklahoma News arrived at his conclusion that a Negro would have to be doped or liquor crazed to be brave, but we did not know until informed by the Oklahoma News, that dope and whiskey are commodities easily accessible as one would infer from reading this journal) inside the walls of our state prison. Think of it! Here is a man in death row. Under the prison rules he has been there for several weeks. Totally isolated from all other prisoners. and yet the editor

of the Oklahoma News can stretch his warped imagination to a point where he can assume that dope and whiskey dropped like manna from heaven into that cell of isolation and death. The Negro acted too sane to be crazy, so therefore he must have been whiskey-logged or full of "snow."

If the editor of the Oklahoma News is to be believed, the legislature now in session should begin immediately a probe of conditions down around the state prison. How does it happen that dope and whiskey got into the penitentiary? After it gets in there, how does it percolate down into death row? Surely a Negro could not go legally to his death down at McAlester, filled with dope and whiskey, without somebody in authority knowing something about it.

It is to laugh. If in the morning a white prisoner were to walk to the death chair in some prison with the same firm tread; were he to employ the same language as he laughed at death, the white press of the nation would be filled with adjectives, such as "daring, bold, heroic, fearless, defiant, challenging," in describing the act. "Niggers" must be dope-crazed or crack-brained when they face death without a quiver.

Burned Cork

It should now be established in the mind of every well-informed person, regardless of his color, that when the newspapers report a Negro has committed a crime, it does not always follow that it was actually a black man who committed the offense.

Just a few days ago, in the largest type that could be secured, or that it uses on its front page, the Oklahoma City Times announced an unidentified Negro had kidnaped the offspring of a rich white man. The nation gasped while the details of a dastardly crime were paraded before public view, and always, while they read, was the mind-picture of a black degenerate snatching from his mother's arms (so to speak) her darling little daughter.

But the scene changes. Someone gets caught in the attempt to collect ransom. It is startling to discover a white man confesses that he and his brother kidnaped 10-year-old Peggy McMath. This white man confesses he and his brother blackened their faces to commit the crime, and that no Negro was actually or in fact involved.

Simple justice would have warranted the newspapers who hurled this lie to the world to correct this wrong against Negroes. But did they do it? No!

To correct the thought in the minds of millions of Americans that a Negro had committed this dastardly crime, the same paper secluded down in the body of another subsequent article a short statement covering the confession. There was nothing in the headlines or the principal sub-heads which would disclose this startling information to the public.

It is this sort of unjust attitude that keeps the Negro fighting on many fronts. Apparently, in dealing with law enforcement, white people are motivated by the idea that

WHITES BLACK FACES TO LOOT NEGRO HOME

BOLEY, Okla., (A. N. P.)—Last Sunday morning while Mr. and Mrs. A. Ward of this city were attending church services, three white men and one boy blacked their faces and looted the Ward home on the edge of town. They filled three sacks with flour, hams, clothes, money and made their getaway, but police officer Langston McCormick tracked them for about four miles to Castle, a white town. The boy was captured, later lodged in jail, then made a confession. All the loot was recovered, but the other three white thieves got away.

the Negro is the guilty party in every unsolved crime. All any white man has to do, when he commits a crime, is to point towards a Negro. Such moments are used as justification for the removal of every constitutional guarantee from the Negro section of the community. The white man having written into his language that evil is black and virtue white, blindly turns his bloodhounds away from the trails of reason. A Negro is guilty and must be doubly proved innocent.

White newspapers are perhaps the worst purveyors of this sort of popy-cock. They are in fact directly responsible for the false notion which dominates their racial group regarding Negroes. Through propaganda, there has been created in the minds of millions of white women that Negro men are lurking everywhere on the highways and by-ways of America to seize their persons and destroy their virtue. Forgotten entirely is the record Negroes made during the war between the states. It was then that the white man went to the field of battle, leaving his women folk behind in the hands and control of Negroes. It was in this environment, when the Negro could have done as he wished, that black men left an untarnished record. There is not a blot on the page of the record, Negro men of the South made during the Civil War, which shows that a white woman was ravished.

Take the Scottsboro cases. A thousand headlines have been printed in white newspapers which fairly scream: "Negroes attack two white girls." If the circumstances had been reversed as to race, in the event the white newspapers said anything about the matter, which they usually do not, the copy would read, "White Man Alleged to Have Attacked Negro Girl."

There is a lot of difference between charging a man with guilt instead of telling the truth, and saying that suspicion only points its finger in that direction. This is the kind of black cork which daily newspapers spread over a white lie. Because of this sort of hypocrisy millions of white Americans assume that millions of Negroes are potential criminals.

In this issue of the Black Dispatch is published the story of three whites who blacked their faces to steal groceries from Negroes at Boley. Not a word regarding this crime has filtered into the columns of white newspapers. There ought to be just as much reader interest in such an item as can be found in the report that a Negro stole the proverbial sack of chickens.

While the white man has been committing crimes with a blacked face, he has been committing a greater crime whitening faces. Not content to occasionally use his burned cork with which to cover his tracks, he has been busy whitening Negro faces with his own blood. If the white women in America ever wake up to the perfidy of white men; if they ever wake up to the truth that it is white men they had better watch, rather than black men, Negro men will perhaps slowly begin to walk out into the sunlight of integrity and honor. With his burned cork in the day and sensuality at night, the white man has become the Dr. Jerkyl and Mr. Hyde of the world.

OFFICERS WHO DEPORTED 46 NEGROES MUST STAND TRIAL

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Governor Gifford Pinchot has written A. B. DeCastrique, Beaver county attorney, demanding that he prosecute county officials on charges of kidnapping 46 Negroes last January and deporting them to West Virginia.

The governor wrote DeCastrique that the failure to prosecute the county officials and state police alleged to have deported the colored people from the town of Industry "is deliberate defiance of the law."

Action of the governor followed closely the receipt by him of a report on the deportation by William Schnader, attorney general of the state. Mr. Schnader's investigation was a direct result of the activity of the N.A.A.C.P., especially the Pittsburgh branch, under the leadership of Homer E. Brown, who himself made a preliminary investigation and secured the facts which formed the basis of a demand by the N.A.A.C.P. on Governor Pinchot that the attorney general be requested to make an official investigation.

"An Outrage"

Once into action Mr. Schnader, through Special Deputy Attorney General John D. Myer of Pittsburgh, secured testimony which led him to declare in his report: "The investigation clearly discloses that an outrage was committed upon these colored people" and "I have no hesitancy in saying that this is a matter which ought to be submitted to the grand jury and which should be vigorously handled by the district attorney."

Mr. Schnader recommended prosecution of all the people involved in the deportation on charges of kidnapping. He points out in his report that the Negroes were taken in trucks, against their will, under armed guard and were told to "beat it" out of Pennsylvania and stay out for two years.

Paid \$2.50 Each

The report further substantiates the N.A.A.C.P. investigation by Mr. Brown in pointing out that the raid on the home of Virginia Heath in Industry was conducted in a high-handed and illegal manner; that the colored people present at

the party were lined up and told to pay over \$2.50 each. Those who paid were freed and those who did not were taken to jail. The Schnader report says: "It has been impossible to learn what happened to the money collected at Virginia Heath's house."

In the Schnader report is asserted that Howard A. Hunter, county commissioner of Beaver county, assumed charge of the deportation because he wanted to save the county the expense of holding 46 persons in jail for 10 days. Several state police, constables and county officials were active in the kidnapping.

Crime-1933

Pennsylvania

NEW YORK WORLD

Telegram

AUG 31 1933

DEMANDS KIDNAP TRIALS

**Pinchot Insists on Prosecution of
Deporters of Negroes.**

By the United Press.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug. 31.—The failure of A. B. Decastrique, Beaver County attorney, to prosecute persons who deported forty-six Negroes from the town of Industry last January "is deliberate defiance of the law," Governor Pinchot wrote the prosecutor today. The executive demanded prosecution on kidnaping charges.

An official report said State police assisted in the raid on the Negroes who were placed in trucks and transported to the West Virginia State line.

**Beaver County
Case Unearths
Negro Traitors
Pinchot Might Interest
Self As Whitewashing
Attempts Crop Up**

BEAVER, Pa.—Despite the fact that the Beaver County Grand Jury is now in session, the District Attorney, A. B. De Castrique, has made no move toward prosecuting the officials who kidnapped forty-six Negroes and "rode" them out of the State with orders not to return.

The official is said to be having a great amount of fun over the entire incident, especially since he has been instructed to do something about it by Governor Pinchot. More damaging than this, however, is the rumor that Negroes in Beaver County are actually seeking to have the case whitewashed because some of the men concerned are "good friends of the group".

With the primary elections out of the way it is thought that Governor Pinchot will now turn his attention toward Beaver in an effort to have the official do what is his duty in the matter of prosecuting a prima facie case. This has been suggested by Attorney General Schnader.

Columbia, S. C. State
June 7, 1933

COLUMBIA NEGRO GETS LIFE TERM

**Willie Koon Pays for
Pruitt's Death.**

NEGROES ATTACKED

Seven Others Get Six Months.

**A. H. Eleazer Charged With
Non-Support.**

Willie Koon, alias Sunky Koon, Columbia Negro, was sentenced to life in prison yesterday in criminal court for killing Herman Pruitt, Union white man, here May 3. Koon was indicted for murder but Solicitor A. Fletcher Spigner agreed to a life sentence without calling witnesses, and the jury recommended the mercy of the court, which automatically meant a life sentence.

Seven others indicted, following the killing of Pruitt, pleaded guilty to assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature and were sentenced to six months in prison by Judge W. H. Townsend. Upon serving two months the rest of their sentences will be suspended during good behavior.

Pruitt was killed when he and several other white men were attacked by a gang of Negroes about midnight near the Seaboard station. It was alleged that the Negroes were trying to steal liquor which had been bought here by Pruitt to be taken to Union.

Jasper Lowry, also indicted for murder of Pruitt, was not tried. His case was put on the contingent docket by the solicitor.

The seven to receive six-month sentences are: Henry Davis, Townsend Dantzler, Luther Dove, David Benson, Sipio Thomas, Brooks Jackson and Warren Arthur Williams.

The grand jury completed its work for the term yesterday morning.

As the court recessed for the day the case of A. H. Eleazer, former rural policeman, for non-support was being tried. It will likely be concluded today.

Albert Brown yesterday pleaded guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to serve one year on the state reformatory for Negro boys. He was originally charged with murder of his father.

Clyde Hughs, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill, pleaded guilty to assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature and was sentenced to three years.

Charley Vinson was found guilty on a charge of housebreaking and was sentenced to one year in prison.

Will Whitman pleaded guilty to assault and battery with intent to kill and carrying concealed weapons and got a three-year sentence.

The grand jury returned the following true bills:

Frank Brown and Jack Graddick, highway robbery and larceny.

Claud Pope and T. P. Ripley, highway robbery and larceny.

John Fulton, housebreaking, burglary and larceny.

Curtis Carlton, assault and battery with intent to kill.

Henry Taylor, housebreaking and larceny.

Douglas Thomas, burglary, assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature.

Claud Pope, highway robbery and larceny.

A "no bill" was returned by the grand jury against Lonnie Peake, whom the solicitor had sought to have tried on charges of privily stealing from the person and larceny.

COLUMBIA, S. C.

RECORD

SEP 9 1933

UNCERTAIN PUNISHMENT.

Circuit Judge C. C. Featherstone thinks straight and what is more important he speaks out in court

South Carolina's unenviable record in crime, the tendency of South Carolinians to disregard the law

and to the over generous use of the pardoning power.

"In recent years," he told an Anderson county grand jury, "there has been a growing disrespect for these laws because they are not properly enforced and adequate punishment is not inflicted."

Too frequently, through intervention of the governor, the punishment is not allowed to stand.

"The laws should be impartially enforced. I am not surprised that law is not respected when it sends the poor white man or negro to jail with a sentence of many years for some minor offense, no reason. And the state pays for it and lets the man who steals thousands of dollars get away with almost nothing, and an apology for punishing him at all.

"We might as well face that truth. South Carolina has the bloodiest homicide record in the union. Her cotton and corn crop may be short, but its homicide crop is never lacking.

"There is a deplorable lack of active co-operation of law enforcement on the part of our citizens. We all favor law enforcement but when it comes to a personal matter we do very little about it."

Respect for law, as Judge Featherstone realizes, must be won. It cannot be attained by proclamation or by polite argument. There is only one argument that counts; that is the certainty of punishment. And few things in this uncertain world are more uncertain than punishment for law violation. The code of criminal procedure, devised as a means of guarding against the possibility of some innocent man's being punished, handicaps law enforcement. It presumes that Al Capone is innocent. It rules out evidence that reasonable men, seeking the answer to a similar problem, would consider. It offers almost endless opportunities for delays—what is a constitutional guarantee of a speedy trial among defense lawyers? It makes of court trials a contest between attorneys not a simple endeavor to get at the truth. It presents innumerable technicalities, any or all of which may increase the uncertainty of punishment.

And when the case may be tried, appealed, affirmed, a final conviction recorded and the sentence imposed there is still another uncertainty. What the police, the solicitor, the judge and jury accomplish can be nullified by executive clemency. There is only one certain punishment for crime in South Carolina—an executed death sentence. Any other sentence, duly imposed and its service begun, may be cut short and reduced to nullity. Too many of them have been and not one person in a hundred, sentenced for crime in this state, expects to serve out the sentence imposed. All of them hope and this hope takes the sting out of convictions. In South Carolina the governor's power to pardon is unlimited. He can loose any prisoner for any or no reason.

Columbia, S. C. News & Courier
October 22, 1933

3 Allendale Negroes Convicted in Slaying

**Two of Them Receive 10-year
Sentences for Death of Man
Put on Rail Tracks**

Allendale, Oct. 21. — Special Criminal court for Allendale county was in session here this week, with Judge S. W. G. Shipp presiding. Only one case went to the jury for trial, but numerous others were disposed of by defendants entering pleas of guilty.

Four negroes, one a woman, were charged with the murder of a young negro man, Willie Move, at Seigling, about three months ago. The man's body was placed on the tracks of the Southern railway, where it had been horribly mutilated by a freight train. The case against Paul Johnson, one of the negroes, was not pressed, by order of Solicitor Randolph Murdaugh, the other two men receiving sentences of ten years each and the woman five years.

J. W. Lee was indicted for murder by the grand jury, but the case was continued on account of the illness of his attorney.

The Misses Leola and Kate Fennell and their brother, Coy Fennell, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill and resisting an officer, were committed to the State Hospital for a thirty-day observation by order of the judge.

Charlie Murray and Isaiah Best were sentenced to one year when they plead guilty to housebreaking and larceny. Quillie Brown drew a sentence of a year on his plea of guilty of assault and battery.

Two years each were sentences imposed on Dave Miller and Boy Chisolm Miller, who admitted charges of housebreaking and larceny.

George Stokes, young white man, was sent up for three years after pleading guilty on an indictment for grand larceny.

Dr. Joseph A. Hartig was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of obtaining goods on false pretences, and the case continued, as was a case against J. C. Newsom for breach of trust, and against W. E. Dunham for larceny.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TELEGRAM

NOV 6 1933

Injustice In Prison

North Carolina prison officials have adopted a policy of training convict camp supervisors in their duties, not one minute before the departure from the older program of allowing camp officers to obtain their instructions in the school of experience became obsolete. Today's Raleigh dispatches show that the number of prison escapes has been lessened and during the past month the number of re-captures was greater than the number of escapes, a record that should be more than impressive to the potential bolter.

In South Carolina, however, a Negro who ran away from a road camp last week and was absent for an hour is dead after he was beaten with a leather strap. Four men are under arrest for their part in the beating and, one presumes, they will stand trial in court. A doctor was summoned to the camp after the Negro was beaten and was screaming from pain to administer a narcotic. The doctor stated that he did not make an examination of the bruises and whip marks on the man. One man who lived near the camp said that he left home because the screams of the man terrified his wife.

Prisons are not supposed to be Summer resorts but the sort of thing that is forever cropping out in Southern convict camps when prisoners are beaten and occasionally killed is pretty bad. We cannot blame the guards entirely but high officials, beginning with the Governor to the lowest prison executive, for permitting a condition so thoroughly obnoxious and despicable to continue. The use of the lash in South Carolina is not legal; the use of the lash without a doctor present at the time it is administered is not legal in any state we know anything about.

Crime-1933

South Carolina

Brunswick, Ga. News

December 5, 1933

Two negroes went to their deaths in the South Carolina electric chair with hymns on their lips. Most white men who face death that way only have the courage to die with curses for their executioners.

NEWS

Silver City, N.C.

NOV 24 1933

CHAIN-GANG CRUELTY

In South Carolina a negro convict escaped from a prison camp and when recaptured the guards whipped him with a leather strap. Shortly afterwards the convict died.

The coroner's jury, very properly, found that the negro died from heart attack, brought on by the severe punishment inflicted by four guards who knew he was in poor physical condition. The jury ordered that these four men be arrested and prosecuted for their severe treatment of the prisoner.

South Carolina is to be congratulated upon having citizens on a coroner's jury who refuse to tolerate such undesirable and inhuman conditions. There is no excuse for such severity and the law does not give much freedom in the management of prisoners intrusted to their custody. A prisoner on a gang has some rights which even his guards must respect.

One phase of the Carolina situation calls for further investigation. A doctor was called to see the convict but says that he did not examine him. What kind of a doctor is this, prescribing for a patient without even making a casual examination of his condition? If the doctor's statement is true, his license to practice should be revoked.

JOURNAL

Spartanburg, S.C.

NOV 13 1933

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South Carolina to Hit Chain Gangs

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 27.—Seeking to profit by and escape from the unsavory reputation recently hung on Georgia for its chain gang brutalities, Governor Blackwood of this state has ordered a prompt investigation into brutality charges recently made against a Greenville county chain gang.

"In justice to the state and to Greenville county," said Charles H. Gerald, the governor's secretary, "the investigation will be promptly made."

State Constable W. Fred Newman of Spartanburg was dispatched by the governor to Greenville to make a "thorough inquiry" into the charges that David Kraft, the 14-year-old Newark, N. J., youth was mistreated while he was serving a sentence on the chain gang for "hoboing."

Greenville county officials denied Kraft was subjected to brutality. The governor's secretary said a "statement from Kraft's physician in New Jersey" would be sought to determine if the youth was injured as he claimed.

RAILROADS NEGRO BOY TO CHAIR IN HOUR

York, S. C., Feb. 7.—Without counsel to represent him, and with no witnesses called in his defense, Will Sanders, 16-year-old Negro boy, was arraigned, tried, convicted of murder, and sentenced to be electrocuted, all in one hour and 17 minutes, in a lynch court presided over by Judge W. H. Townsend. Date of execution was set for March 3.

Miss Zula Stephenson, 59-year-old white spinster, was found murdered in her house on January 2. Immediately two rural policemen arrested Sanders, who was said to have gone to the Stephenson house that day to take some washing for his grandmother. He was spirited away and held "some-where in South Carolina" while the usual methods were applied to him to obtain a confession. Police said he signed one. On January 23, he was arraigned and the court appointed Mayor H. M. Dunlap of York, to "represent him" at the trial. No effort was made to investigate or to bring any witnesses for the defense, and "defense" consisted merely in the formal appointment. The state called the boy's uncle, John Walker, to the stand to testify his nephew was 16 years old. Other state witness was Rural Policeman G. M. Potts, who said he obtained a confession from Sanders. He did not tell how he obtained it. The jury took just 28 minutes to bring in a verdict of "guilty," and Judge Townsend sentenced Sanders to the electric chair.

ANDERSON, S. C.
MAIL

JAN 16 1933
JAILED FOR DEBT.

WE, as a people, often boast of the progress made since the founding of the United States but it all depends on the way one looks at it.

Jailing for non-payment of debts is one of the evils not entirely done away with, as witness the case here in Anderson brought to light by John Frank. George Hull, a negro about as hard put financially as any head of a family might be, was given 10 days for failure to pay his one-dollar poll tax, which is a debt to the state as decreed by law but no more of a debt than those contracted by practically everyone in the business world in one form or another.

Shall we resort to the system of jailing everyone who does not, because he cannot, pay his debts? If so the jails and chaingangs will see many of our best people, and the homes and offices will probably have hardly more population than the various prisons. And if we do not require the jail penalty for non-payment of private debts why should the state do so?

The officers of the law are not to be blamed but the law should be changed. We have emerged from the dark ages in most respects and there is no reason why such penalties should continue to be exacted from those who cannot pay.

South Carolina Official Proposes Shocking Exhibition

Plans to Place Body of 16-year-old Youth on Display
in Front of the Court House
After He Is Hung

NEW YORK.—The proposal of Solicitor W. Gist Finley, of York, S. C., to exhibit the dead body of Will Sanders, 16, on the court house steps after the boy is hanged, March 3, was branded "Middle Age barbarism" by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a sharp telegram of protest sent today to Governor Ibra C. Blackwood, of South Carolina. The trial, on the pattern of the legal mockeries of Scottsboro in the case of Sanders to see whether there are not still some legal steps which can be taken in his behalf, He is said to have confessed to murdering a white woman. The telegram to Governor Blackwood was signed by Walter White, secretary of the association, and stated in part: "This association and all decent white and colored people, North and South, brand this plan as a ghoulis relic of Middle Age barbarism. There are instances where outlaw mobs have staged public exhibitions of this nature, but it remains for an elected official charged with enforcement of the law, to propose in the name of the law, a barbaric display unrivaled in modern enlightened civilization. We call upon you as chief executive of the state to peremptorily order the abandonment of this plan which cannot but bring shame upon the name of South Carolina." The announcement, made last week by Solicitor Finley, has aroused tremendous resentment among the Negro workers and tenant farmers of the district, already aroused by the cynical conduct of his trial.

The association has asked attorneys in South Carolina to examine the case of Sanders to see whether there are not still some legal steps which can be taken in his behalf. He is said to have confessed to murdering a white woman. The telegram to Governor Blackwood was signed by Walter White, secretary of the association, and stated in part: "This association and all decent white and colored people, North and South, brand this plan as a ghoulis relic of Middle Age barbarism. There are instances where outlaw mobs have staged public exhibitions of this nature, but it remains for an elected official charged with enforcement of the law, to propose in the name of the law, a barbaric display unrivaled in modern enlightened civilization. We call upon you as chief executive of the state to peremptorily order the abandonment of this plan which cannot but bring shame upon the name of South Carolina." The announcement, made last week by Solicitor Finley, has aroused tremendous resentment among the Negro workers and tenant farmers of the district, already aroused by the cynical conduct of his trial.

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3 NEGROES EXECUTED AT COLUMBIA PRISON

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 3.—(AP) Three negroes were electrocuted at the state penitentiary here today. They were Will Sanders, who said he was only 14, for the murder of a white woman, and James Jones and James Arthur Dickson, cousins, for the murder of a farmer.

Protests Mount Against Plan To Exhibit Electrocuted Body On Court House Steps

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Protest upon the planned exhibition in York of the body of Will Sanders, 16-year-old youth, after he is executed on Friday, March 3, for the alleged killing of Mrs. Zula Stephenson, white. Telegrams from men and women, north and South; from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and from C. A. Franklin, editor of the Kansas City Call, are among the large number of communications which have reached Governor Ibra C. Blackwood.

Not satisfied that Sanders, an illiterate boy, was arraigned, tried, convicted and sentenced in 77 minutes, Solicitor W. Gist Finley has gone the law one better by deciding on displaying the body on the Court House steps because he fears "many Negroes would not believe Sanders had been put to death less they saw his body dead."

No witnesses were put on stand in Sander's defense at the trial, and no adequate legal counsel was provided. The confession dictated to him stated that he had gone to the white woman's house to get some washing for his aunt. After he had obtained the clothes, he remembered he had forgotten to ask for soap. When he returned and asked for the soap, the white woman berated him and called him names. He struck her and, becoming frightened, killed her.

The many protests have also set in motion plans to call upon the legislature to prevent any such ghastly exhibition of a dead body, and while the solicitor may have to amend his plans, he has not corrected his first published statement concerning the exhibition of the electrocuted corpse.

Editor Franklin called upon the governor to "stop the hideous spectacle which the officials at York plan to make March 3, after they have executed Will Sanders. Parading his dead body through the streets makes them out do the head-hunters in savagery. The very thought of such an act in a land where there are schools and churches and civilization, is revolting."

After branding the proposed act as "a ghoulis relic of Middle Age barbarism," Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, tells Governor Blackwood the fol-

Sanders; he would have been dead and beyond reach of hurt. It might have hurt York county. It would not have prevented crime; the type of person who kills isn't shocked by the sight of a dead body though those in York county who never could kill might have been offended by it.

If there is any value in punishment as a deterrent of crime it is in the certainty of punishment, the knowledge not that one person lost his life for murder but that every person engaging in crime faces the approximate certainty of punishment. What is needed in York is to make an example of criminals, not an example of the dead body of a criminal.

RICHMOND, VA. TIMES DISPATCH

FEB 24 1933

The York Case

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—May we express our gratitude for your fine editorial, "A Barbarous Proposal," in The Times-Dispatch of February 13th relating to the 16-year-old Negro boy of York, S. C.

We do hope that thoughtful white and colored citizens of the South will join in an appeal to the governor of South Carolina to grant at least a communication of this boy's death sentence to a prison term. As The Times-Dispatch so succinctly points out, this was not a premeditated murder and it is barbarous to execute an underprivileged 16-year-old lad for a murder committed in anger, provided he is guilty of the crime. South Carolina has just commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence passed upon a white woman found guilty with her husband of murdering an officer of the law. Can she be less merciful in the case of a child of immature years who has had far less opportunity than the woman who has been saved by Governor Blackwood?

WALTER WHITE, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. New York City, Feb. 22.

Columbia, S. C., Field Bureau, March 2, 1933

3 Negroes Pay Death Penalty In Chair

YORK COUNTY BOY AND TWO AIKEN MEN ELECTROCUTED FOR MURDER

Columbia, March 3.—Three negroes were put to death in the electric chair at the penitentiary here today for murder in South Carolina's third triple electrocution within fourteen

months.

Will Sanders, whose age was listed at his trial as 16 but who later said he was but 14, paid the state's penalty for the beating to death of Miss Zula Stephenson, 59-year-old York county white woman.

James Jones, 23, and James Arthur Dicks, cousins, were executed as the murderers of Charles Green, 68-year-old Aiken county farmer, who was robbed and fatally beaten by them.

The other to die in triple electrocutions also were negroes. Two were executed January 8, 1932, for murder and one for attacking a white woman and three on last July 29 for murder.

All Admit Crimes

Jones, Dicks and Sanders all admitted the crimes of which they were convicted and said they were "ready to die". Jones was pronounced dead at 7:04 a. m., Dicks at 7:25 and Sanders at 7:45.

Sanders apparently did not close his eyes when the head-piece was placed on him, for he said, "wait a minute, let me shut my eyes". A readjustment was made. He said, "now", and Sam C. Cannon, executioner, threw the switch.

The American Civic Liberties union and the National Association for Advancement of Colored People had urged Governor Blackwood to commute Sander's sentence because of his youth.

Dr. E. L. Horger, clinical director of the State hospital, had reported the negro sane but with the mentality of a normal 7 or 8-year-old child. The Rev. S. K. Phillips, prison chaplain, said at the execution Sanders is "just a boy" who "can't tell you what state he lives in" but knows "right from wrong."

"Don't You All Worry"

A brother and three nephews of Miss Stephenson witnessed Sanders' execution, and five nephews of Green saw his slayers put to death.

When C. A. Sullivan, assistant captain of the guard, asked Sanders if he had anything to say, the negro replied, "Reckon not", but added:

"Don't want you all to worry. Meet me in heaven. I made my peace with God, and he done showed me the day."

Jones died mumbling a prayer. He had said, "We ain't got but one way

to come here, but we got all sorts of ways to leave, and I got to go this way."

Dicks, saying he was "ready to go", added, "tell my folks to meet me in heaven."

Crime-1933

Tennessee.

Negro Freed Of Carrying Pistol But Convicted Of Assault With The Pistol

MEMPHIS, TENN., March 7.—(AP)—The mysteries of the law are an insoluble puzzle to Jim Moore, negro baseball player. Moore resorted to violence in settling an argument with another negro player. He was indicted for assault to murder with a pistol, and for pistol carrying. Both cases came up today, that for assault first. The jury heard the evidence and retired, to try the pistol carrying charge, a second jury was brought into the same courtroom, heard the same witnesses testify to the same facts. It retired. Then the first jury came back with a conviction and a sentence of not more than five years imprisonment. On the heels of the first, the second jury returned. It acquitted Moore, reporting that it found no evidence that he carried the pistol. Sentence on the conviction was held up, pending motion for a new trial.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
April 2, 1933

Memphis Is Not Stingy

It looks as if Memphis must again unwillingly accept the honor often thrust upon her of being the murder capital of the United States. We lost the championship one year to our good neighbor Birmingham, but we showed increased speed in homicides last year and have recaptured the dubious position.

For years Dr. Frederick Hoffman, whose business is the gathering of murder statistics, has been exceedingly partial to Memphis. Only after the modest and continued protests made by newspapers and others did Dr. Hoffman admit that the great majority of murders committed in Memphis were the work of colored and not white persons. He is getting more discriminating along this line than he has heretofore been. Also he has listened to the representations of Memphians on the score that many of the killings charged against Memphis are the result of the town's superior hospital facilities. Many persons wounded throughout a wide section of western Tennessee, eastern Arkansas, northern Mississippi, northwestern Alabama and possibly also in southwestern Kentucky and southeastern Missouri find their way to Memphis. If they die here, their killing is charged against the town.

Memphis is not the least bit stingy in the death by members of their own sex. She does not crave all of the honor for herself, but believes there is enough to go around. For this reason she is perfectly willing to share the distinction with contiguous sections of all surrounding states. Dr. Hoffman might at least acknowledge the broad spirit in which Memphis accepts the distinction he annually confers upon her.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
August 23, 1933

NEGRO KILLINGS HIKE TOTAL, DAVIS CITES

Commissioner Analyzes City's Place in Murder List.

Seventy-three of Memphis' 101 murders in 1932 were killings of negroes by negroes, an analysis of homicide reports issued yesterday by Police Commissioner Davis showed.

Figures printed in The Commercial Appeal early in January were brought forth by the commissioner in explanation of a list placing Memphis third among murder cities of the country and compiled by Frederick Rex, Chicago librarian. Mr. Rex's table embodied figures which coincided with Memphis' police department totals. The Chicagoan's tabulation placed the murder rate here as 39.92 per 100,000 population.

"Of course, we are gratified that Mr. Rex should place Memphis lower in his table of murder percentages than have other statisticians," said the commissioner. "The majority of tablemakers heretofore have insisted on including in their murder totals all deaths in Memphis hospitals and, of course, these included cases which were brought here from surrounding points following shootings or other murderous assaults."

In Mr. Rex's table, Jacksonville and Atlanta were rated above Memphis.

Mr. Davis based his analysis on a report submitted on last year's activities of the homicide bureau and submitted by Capt. Frank Glisson. The report included details which showed that 39 negro men were slain by persons of their race and sex, that negro men murdered eight negro women, that 13 negro women killed negro men and three negro women were done to

White Chicken Thieves Operate on Grand Scale Down Memphis Way

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(AP)—Police arrested five white men here Wednesday as the first step in breaking up a huge chicken-stealing ring involving four states, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and Arkansas. The men under arrest are Clarence McCollum, Jesse Bradley, Raymond Skelton, Jim Wedding, and George Collins. Three automobiles were used in the raids that were made nightly on the owners of chicken farms. The stolen chicken were brought to Memphis and sold in the local market. One woman reported that she lost 300 white leghorns in one week.

"BLOOD-SUCKING BONDSMEN."

"I have found that Chattanooga has the worst set of 'blood-sucking bondsmen' in the entire State," says Jack Scandlyn, State license inspector, who last Friday arrested nine professional bondsmen on charges of failure to pay their privilege licenses.

"These unlicensed bondsmen," continues Inspector Scandlyn "have preyed mercilessly on poor ignorant Negroes, and in some cases they have taken the money of colored prisoners and left them in jail." The remainder of the inspector's statement, published yesterday morning, indicates that he intends to clean up the local bondsman situation.

This is gratifying, but why has it been necessary for a State license inspector to come to Chattanooga and reveal such a condition as he says exists? Why, indeed, has such a condition been allowed to come into existence? Has some local authority been asleep on the job or playing politics with "blood-sucking bondsmen" who prey on the poor?

A Brutal Crime

WILLIE MAE BARNES, young Negro woman, was given a life sentence here yesterday for one of the most brutal murders we can recall. She pleaded guilty.

George Garner, a white man, was lying, intoxicated, on the bank of the Tennessee River, near the Dickey factory, on the evening of last June 2. The Barnes girl and a male confederate approached to rob him. The Negro man was removing the victim's shoes, and the girl went through his pockets. Finding nothing, according to Attorney-General Lively, she became angered and deliberately plunged a knife into his chest, the blade piercing his heart. Garner died a few days later.

A jury composed of Negroes, determined to check the crime among their race which is fostered by leniency or indifference of white juries toward Negro crime, might have given the woman the death sentence.

Crime-1933

Texas.

ARREST OF NEGRO WOMAN CAUSES JUDGE WHIT BOYD TO ISSUE ORDER FOR GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION

Judge Whit Boyd told the Harris County grand jury Monday to investigate the case of a Negro woman arrested in Houston, transferred to Conroe and held there four days without being charged, and told the jurors to indict anyone found guilty of law-breaking in the matter.

Jim Peden, former assistant district attorney, who brought the case to the judge's attention and secured the release of the woman Monday on habeas corpus proceedings, told the judge that Texas Rangers arrested Mrs. Richardson.

The jury called Mrs. Ella Richardson of 2704 Burnett street, the woman.

"A very unusual matter has been brought to my attention," Judge Boyd told the jurors, when they filed into the court room at his request. "I want some action in the case, want something done about it."

Taken to Conroe

"This Negro woman was arrested and put in city jail and, after a little investigation, was surreptitiously taken from there to Conroe jail and held without any charges being filed."

"This kind of conduct is not permitted in Texas and especially in Harris County. Investigate and indict those who are guilty of misconduct if you find any law has been broken, and I imagine there has been."

Officer Davis said he and other officers, whose names he did not know, took the woman from North Side police station Thursday to jail at Conroe. He said she was "held for investigation" in connection with the theft of some cigarets from a truck of the West Texas Motor Freight Lines, 516 Walnut street.

Cigarets Are Found

Davis said cigarets stolen from the truck were found in the auto of the woman. Attorney Peden told Judge Boyd the auto had been stolen from Mrs. Richardson and that she had reported the theft to police several hours before the cigarets were taken.

"Just a few minutes after we were hired in the case, the woman was kidnapped from jail here and it was only by accident we located her in Montgomery County," Peden said. "I think the grand jury ought to investigate such high-handed procedure by

the Rangers."

Later Monday Davis, Montgomery County deputy, showed Judge Boyd a warrant for the woman, issued Sunday by Justice R. E. Darby of Conroe, charging her with felony theft.

"I think this warrant was issued for a protection for the officers," Judge Boyd said. "I shall tell the grand jury to continue its investigation of this matter."

Mrs. Richardson was released on her own recognizance by order of Judge Boyd.

HOUSTON, TEX.
PRESS

APR 5 1933

NEGROES AND CRIMINALS

(Editorial in Houston Defender, edited by and published for negroes.)

In an editorial appearing recently in The Houston Press, Editor M. E. Foster called upon Houston negroes to help the police department in apprehending the culprits charged with murdering white youth here late Sunday night and criminally attacking his female companion.

Law-abiding and law-respecting negroes of Houston are ever ready to perform their duties as citizens, and they are against crime of any and all sort, perpetrated by criminals of all races; but they do not subscribe to the notion that the entire race should be indicted or held blamable for the alleged crime of some member of their race.

As reported to police officers and the press, the crime was a most dastardly and revolting one, and negroes are anxious to see the guilty parties arrested, tried and convicted through orderly legal processes; but if experts in crime detection and criminology are unable to find a clue, how much more difficult is the task when placed upon the shoulders of ordinary negro citizens.

Not only are the vast majority of Houston negroes against criminals and ever ready to do their

part as patriotic citizens, but they realize how impotent they are to do their whole duty in this connection when the community openly tolerates crime incubators among negroes, and when dives flourish without molestation or much police interference in every negro neighborhood in this city.

Houston negroes appreciate the sympathetic attitude of an increasingly large number of white Houstonians toward their race, and they are not unmindful of the spirit of resentment and hostility engendered through the commitment and publication of such beastly crimes, but no fair-minded and unbiased person will hold the entire race responsible for the alleged deeds of some one or two members of the race; for there is no element in our polyglot population more loyal and law-abiding than the negro, and there are multiplied thousands of them who do not condone crime or criminals, whether they are black, white, red, yellow, native, naturalized or alien.

Editorial Comment

No Crime by Negroes

IT IS our privilege to read many of the metropolitan daily papers printed in the South. In them appear many stories of crime committed by Negroes. We were very much delighted to read the Fort Worth Star-Telegram of June 29, and find that in spite of the fact that there were stories of nineteen persons who were charged with crime, not one of the persons mentioned was a Negro. This was quite remarkable and therefore attracted our attention on account of the fact that there is a very large Negro population in the territory served by the Star-Telegram.

We recognize the fact that this is quite an isolated case and does not represent the general conditions in that section of the country, yet we desire to call the attention of our readers to this particular incident, first of all to encourage those among us who are anxious that our number of criminals may decrease, and that our record for obedience to law and general orderliness may commend us to those among the citizens of all races in the communities where we live who stand by those things which are the best and noblest in the community life.

There is no one thing which militates more against the standing of Negroes in the communities where they live than these stories of crimes, committed by

them vividly written and often over-colored by newspaper reporters. How we are able to overcome their bad influence is one of those mysteries which we shall never be able fully to explain. The matter, however, is so serious that much more attention should be given to both the reduction of crime among us by members of our own group, and some effort ought to be made to see that the stories of the crimes we do commit are not over-colored by the newspaper writers who seem to be past masters in the fine art of painting word-pictures of Negro criminals. We ourselves do not fully realize how these stories of our criminals in the newspapers have caused many people who have little contact with Negroes to believe that all Negroes are criminals. Many children and inexperienced young people of the white race have come so completely under their influence that they have a kind of innate fear of them when they come into their presence. That such an attitude toward Negroes is a serious handicap in many ways is easily manifest. Any effort, therefore, on our own part to decrease the number of criminals in our race group and thereby build up the respect of other races for us and see that our people who do commit crime get a square deal so far as publicity is concerned, should bear fruitage well worth the effort put into it.

This matter is so serious that all our advancement agencies, the family, the school, the church, our newspapers, and all our welfare organizations would do well to begin and continue work to the end that we may relieve ourselves of some of the exaggerated odium which has come from the Negro criminal and the story of his crime. It is certainly a matter which should be highly appreciated by the Negroes of Fort Worth and vicinity to have no mention of a single crime committed by a member of our race in such a paper of wide influence and circulation as the Star-Telegram.

THIS MATTER OF LAWLESSNESS

Informers
A Texas federal judge, in instructing a grand jury recently, bewailed the grip that lawlessness has gotten upon the land. Particular reference was made to the notorious Harvey Bailey kidnaping case in Oklahoma. It is proper, of course, to call attention to the alarming American crime situation. It is also proper to consider some of the roots of this evil, which is just about to engulf the nation. 7-33

American disrespect for law and order started with its disrespect for the rights of minorities, especially the rights of the Negro tenth. First of all, in the teeth of the Federal constitution, the South, high handedly and without any remorse or compunction, stole the franchise rights of Negroes. They got away with that. Then they taxed Negroes equally for streets and libraries and parks, etc. and spent all or most of the proceeds of taxation for the benefit of whites to the exclusion of Negroes. They lynched Negroes for crimes which they either committed or of which they were accused, and then let other races slip by in far too many instances.

Criminals then began to extend their operations. They found that they could operate upon Negroes and get away with it; and the next step was to try it out on others. With the ill-gotten profits which bootlegging and the like permitted, they found that they could get away with it there, too. The net result has been that the making of life and liberty and property insecure for Negroes has made life and liberty and property for everybody insecure.

The Informer believes that kidnaping and all other forms of lawlessness will continue unabated, until the law is made an instrument of justice alike for all, irrespective of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

RICHMOND

AS SEEN FROM THE SIDELINES

A Weekly Feature

By OBSERVER

NEGROES IN THE COURTS (Hustings Court)

In Hustings Court, presided over by Judge John L. Ingram, colored people receive a better treatment than they receive in police court in the matter of seats. In Hustings Court court officers adhere to the "first come, first served" policy, colored people filling the seats available in the courtroom from the rear and white people being supposed to fill the ones from the front, but there have been times when practically the entire space allotted for spectators and witnesses were filled by colored people.

This often happens when a case of particular interest to colored people is being tried. Colored and white reporters sit at tables allotted to attorneys and other court officers.

There is also a lack of the burlesque show practice that is typical of police court, both spectators and court officers respecting the wishes of the judge of the court, who is kind but firm. And, though at times there are great crowds on hand to hear a trial, it is seldom that it is necessary to rap for order in the courtroom.

Bans Offensive Terms

Hustings Court is also minus that practice which is so detestable and so often indulged in by officers in police court, of referring to colored prisoners as "niggers" or "darkies." The attention of Judge Ingram was called recently to this practice on the part of a local officer and the practice was stamped out forthwith.

There have been times, however, when attorneys used the word "for effect" in clearing or condemning a prisoner. Even this practice is on the wane, probably due to the higher average intelligence of juries, which would tend to make such tactics unnecessary.

Both white and colored people await anxiously the opening of the October term of this court when colored citizens will serve on grand juries of the court for the first time in more than 30 years.

They have been called for jury service within that time, but there are no large number of citizens

who remember having seen colored men actually serve on grand juries.

Judge Ingram Esteemed Throughout the judicial career of Judge John L. Ingram, judge of the court, who succeeded Judge W. K. Matthews, there has been few instances in which the man in the street disagreed with sentences meted out by him, except the feeling on the part of colored citizens that the judge was a bit too lenient with colored murderers who came before him charged with the murder of colored people.

It is pointed out in this connection, however, that the attitude of the commonwealth's attorney toward cases of this nature is largely responsible for the attitude taken by the judge toward them.

The commonwealth's attorney, it is held, is supposed to obtain the facts in all cases and in uncontested cases to lay before the judge these facts with his recommendations. The judge is not bound by, but depends largely upon, the findings of the commonwealth's attorney, especially when that attorney is a man in whom he has confidence it is averred.

Entering Hustings Court, one is at once impressed with the serenity, the calmness and the dignified atmosphere permeating the courtroom. The judge, himself, is a man of few words and when he hands down a lengthy opinion, in one of those rare instances, though he speaks in modulated tone, he can be heard in every part of the room.

In a word, Hustings Court gives one the impression of being in a court of law—where justice is meted out to all, as the court sees it, irrespective of race, creed, color or previous condition of servitude.

Of course, there are times when different people see things differently from that in which the court sees them, but on the whole there are fewer complaints that can reasonably be lodged against Hustings Court than almost any other court in this city.

This is the end of the "Rich-

mond" series—12 articles which have dealt with the many-sided life and conditions in the capital of the Old Dominion. Besides the courts, the series has dealt with such matters as fraternalism, the church, politics, educational facilities and relief agencies.—Editor.

'NEGRO-DID-IT'**CRIME IS SPIKED
BY POLICE-VICTIM****Black-Faced Bandit****Picks Wrong Man
For Hold-Up**Richmond Bureau
504 N. Third St.

RICHMOND—A striking example of how crimes committed by whites are charged to Negroes through hasty or faulty identification was demonstrated here last Saturday night in the case of Floyd Burnett, 16-year-old white youth of Fort Lee.

It was this way: A Richmond policeman, Lewis Brophy, 2114 Venable Street, off duty, was sitting in his automobile at Byrd Airport with a young lady and a portable radio for company.

Suddenly, a masked figure, with black arms and hands, loomed at their side, and began making insistent demands which were punctuated by a brandished pistol.

Police Battles; Wins

According to the story, patrolman Brophy was in no mood to accede to demands. He offered battle. First, the holdup man hit the officer over the head with the gun. Then the officer took the gun away from his assailant and hit him over the head with it. Presumably the officer was the hardest hitter. At any rate, the holdup man "passed out" cold and the battle was won.

Later, at Henrico police headquarters, the young man, a "very black Caucasian, in spots," identified himself as Floyd Burnett, 16, of Fort Lee. He was charged with attempted highway robbery with a deadly weapon.

Burnett, who had blackened his hands and arms with shoe polish and wore a mask over his face, might have had the whole county looking for a Negro who "had held up and robbed a white man" if he had succeeded in his attempt at robbery, or worse still, had he killed the officer, some innocent Negro would have been incarcerated if he had the hard luck of being found near the scene of the crime.

Burnett had all the facilities for the perpetration of a "perfect" crime. His only mistake was in

picking the wrong subject for his first victim.

SUFFOLK, VA.**NEWS HERALD****JAN 25 1933****COURT LAYS DOWN THE LAW**

In view of the alarming increase in criminal costs in Virginia the past year, public sentiment will approve the action of Judge James L. McLemore in laying down the law to all concerned over the tendency to delay trial of cases for one reason or another and frequently for no reason at all except playing for time in cases where the defense is weak. The court forthwith served notice on attorneys, court officers and all who may be responsible that in future criminal cases must be called for trial at the next term of his tribunal after arrests have been made.

Of course it would not be fair to hold attorneys responsible in many cases. Delays are occasioned sometimes by sickness, the inability to procure important witnesses or lack of time to study cases of a complicated or obscure nature. But what stirred the Suffolk jurist to issue his ultimatum at the opening of court here Monday was the case of a Negro who had been locked up in jail for more than three months without a hearing. Persons charged with a crime are supposed to have a speedy trial, and if they are without means of employing counsel, it is incumbent upon the court to see that he has a lawyer and is given every protection the law contemplates. So this is no excuse for burying a man in a prison cell until he is forgotten.

There has been so much laxity in the prosecution of criminal cases, due to unnecessary delays or the slow processes of the law that court costs have mounted in this state until they have reached a point where a halt must be called. Speeding up the trial of offenders will reduce our jail population and automatically the high cost of maintenance of such institutions. Jail to some people in these days is a haven of refuge from

the storm raging outside and they are glad of the opportunity to prolong their stay. It is to be hoped Judge McLemore's warning will have the desired effect here and what is better still, that other courts will take the cue and thereby lessen the huge cost of support of county and city jails.

**INMATES
SAFE FROM
FIRE, SAYS**

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 23—

(CNS)—The news report that 'one hundred Negro convicts narrowly escaped death at 2 o'clock the morning of January 26, when the building housing them, as they were chained to their bunks, was blown down, at a prison camp near this city,' has brought protests from many parts of the country to this practice of chaining human beings to their cots.

Governor Pollard has written a letter to metal workers in Ohio denying the fact that prisoners in Virginia road camps are chained to their cots.

His reply was to a letter from Trumbull Lodge No. 73, Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, of Warren, O., based on a news report that a prison camp in Hanover County had been blown over by a high wind. In his reply the governor said:

"I find that movable buildings of wood are used in our prison road camps. These buildings are moved in place to place as the camps are moved. The prisoners are not chained to their cots, but the ones who are not trustees are fastened to a long chain during the night; however, this chain is not locked and can be unhooked and the men taken out of either end of the building or through the side, if necessary.

"Each man can move a distance of twenty to twenty-five feet. The buildings are necessarily light, and cannot withstand tornadoes, but in the case of fire the men can easily

escape.

"The road camps have been operating twenty-five years, and there has never been a prisoner hurt or burned in one of our camps on account of the practice above mentioned.

"I am deeply interested in introducing the most humane methods of treatment of prisoners, but the difficulty of safeguarding against all contingencies is well illustrated by the fact that in your own State of Ohio twenty prisoners were burned to death in your brick plant, and 300 in your penitentiary because the men could not be or were not unlocked. Such accidents occur also in hotels and schools."

**A. JUSTICE IS
RAPPED IN COURT****BY WHITE ATT'Y****Mother and Children****Set Upon By Police,****He Tells Judge**Richmond Bureau
504 N. Third St.

RICHMOND, Va.—Virginia justice already slapped by a Massachusetts Federal Judge, came in for another blow at the hands of David Meade White, local white attorney, in Police Court here last week.

Defending three Negroes charged with storing nine bottles of beer, without "a dime for my services, being only interested in seeing justice done," Mr. White explained that it had always been his conviction that officers of the law were sworn to protect citizens rather than to attack them.

Police Brutality Flayed

The attorney went further in summing up his case by declaring: "Such cases as this justify the violent denunciations now being heaped upon Virginia justice. I do not know

what you mean by 'taking the fall,' but I do know that these people, according to the evidence, had committed no crime which would justify the officers in beating them over the head with night sticks."

Judge Haddon had just stated that in his opinion the father of Mrs. Annie L. Winchester, who admitted manufacture and ownership of the beer, was not guilty of the charge despite his testimony to that effect. Mrs. Winchester, her daughter, Anne E., and her son, George, were charged in the warrant with ownership of the beer which was found when officers broke down the door of the house and entered it, subjecting its occupants to a severe beating.

Tells Her Story

Mrs. Winchester told the court that she was in the room with her son and daughter in their home at 1616 Buchanan Street getting some insurance books to be marked by a Mr. Harper, white, a collector for the Home Beneficial Insurance Company, who was also in the room and who testified in court, when she heard a violent pounding on the door. The son and daughter went to the door and were met by officers Frazier and Neal, who had broken the door down and entered the house.

Hearing her daughter scream and the commotion in the hall, she said she went to investigate and found Officer Neal assisted by Frazier beating her son over the head. Frazier immediately pounced upon her as she began pleading with the officers to stop beating the boy. She said she was knocked senseless and did not revive until she was in the station house.

Head Bandaged

The woman said she was struck on Easter Monday and had not been able to appear in court since that time. Her head was still bandaged where she said five stitches were taken in it as a result of the wound she received at the hands of Officer Frazier. She exhibited the apron she wore at the time. It was literally covered with blood.

Asked by Attorney White if he called an ambulance for the woman, Officer Frazier said he did, but added that she was taken to the station house in the patrol. Asked if he sought to ascertain how badly the woman was hurt, he said "No."

"You didn't care, did you?" queried the attorney. "No," replied Frazier.

Cops "Show Him"

The cases were sent on to the June grand jury, with the understanding that the father of Mrs.

Winchester would be arrested on the charge of storing ardent spirits. He is reported to have been roughly handled by Officers Neal and Frazier and carried to headquarters immediately after he emerged from the courtroom. Officer Frazier is said to have struck him over the head with his night stick and told him they would "show him" what happens to those making police officers liars.

The testimony of the insurance agent tallied in detail with that of the mother and her children.

According to the story of the officers, the boy was sitting on the porch. On seeing their car, he ran in the house and bolted the door. But according to the story told by the insurance man, the boy and girl, their mother, and he were all in the same room.

Officer Frazier admitted the presence of the white insurance collector in the home, and told the court that they saw the man "hanging around there every day or so."

"People do not collect insurance every day in the week," Frazier told Judge Haddon.

OFFICER HITS MAN WHILE HE IS HANDCUFFED

(Continued from Page 1)

"a man should not be hit while handcuffed."

One Charge Dropped

Parker and Griffin were charged with assault and robbery from a purse. The robbery charge was dropped later when the pistol and blackjack were returned.

They were fined \$10 each in Police Court Friday morning, but the case was appealed to Hustings Court through efforts of Thomas Gillman, white attorney for the defense.

The defense attorney also advised Mr. Parker to issue a warrant for the arrest of Officer Cotton on charges of breaking and entering and assault and attempt to kill. The officer is scheduled to be given a hearing Friday on the charges made against him by Mr. Parker.

ASSAULT OF PORTSMOUTH MAN SCORED BY PASTOR

The Rev. Harvey N. Johnson, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, declared in a statement from his pulpit Sunday afternoon that the circumstances surrounding the assault upon and arrest of Forrest L. Parker "is plain evidence that the spirit

of Scottsboro is not confined to Alabama."

The prominent minister was commenting on the "inside story of the Scottsboro Case" as it had just been given at the church in an address by P. Bernard Young, Jr., who covered the retrial of Haywood Patterson at Decatur.

Called Cowardly Act

"There was no justification for searching the man's premises and trying to jimmy open the rumble seat of his car without the proper warrant," declared Rev. Mr. Johnson. "And no man, whether he is a criminal or not, should be subjected to a cowardly attack while he is handcuffed and helpless to defend himself."

"It is cases like this one and the Scottsboro case," he continued, "which show clearly that we need to enter into these campaigns for justice and fairness with renewed vigor and courage. Our elemental citizenship rights will not drop down to us like manna from Heaven."

CITIZENS ARE AROUSSED BY BRUTAL ACT

Journal and Guide
F.L. Parker Fined But
Appeals and Files
Counter Charges

5-28-33
Norfolk, Va.
TWO MEN ARRESTED
Had Objected to Search
of Home Without
Proper Warrant

Portsmouth Bureau

Because he objected to the intrusion of Officer L. C. Cotton of the Portsmouth police department, on his premises without a warrant, Forrest L. Parker, 32, of 2512 Morton Street, Taylorsville, was arrested and twice assaulted last week, once at his home and once in a room at the police station, while handcuffed, according to a statement made by Mr. Parker to a Guide reporter. His statement supplemented testimony he gave in Police Court.

Miss Madeline Williams of Suffolk Road, Bowers Hill, a visitor at the Parker home, figured in the disturbance in which Officer Cotton swung a blackjack and fired two shots from his revolver. Mr. Parker said that he heard a noise in his yard and upon investigation found the officer trying to pry open the rumble seat of his car.

"What are you looking for?" asked Mr. Parker.

"Non of your d---m business!" the officer, who was not in uniform, is alleged to have said.

Orders Officer Away

After several questions to which he received similar replies, Mr. Parker said he ordered Officer Cotton from his yard. James Griffin, also of Taylorsville, came on the scene at the sign of disturbance. Upon being ordered out, Officer Cotton is said to have "made a pass" at the men with his blackjack but Griffin caught and held his hand. With his free hand the officer pulled his pistol and Parker hugged him about the body to prevent possible injury.

In the scuffle the officer fired two shots which went wild. While Parker held the policeman, Griffin took his gun and blackjack. The officer was then ordered from the premises again. Upon leaving he asked for the blackjack and pistol, and Parker offered to return it unloaded. Officer Cotton refused those terms.

Returns With Another Gun

About five minutes later, according to Mr. Parker, Officer Cotton came back with another revolver, knocked the hook off the screen door, entered, and "took charge of the house." Parker and Griffin in the meantime, had retreated to a back room upstairs.

In the front room with Miss Madeline Williams, a little girl, aged 6, screamed hysterically as the officer broke in, Mr. Parker said. Miss Williams was confined to the room and Officer Cotton, using profanity, tried to learn the hiding place of the men from her. Messrs. Parker and Griffin escaped through a back window and reported the occurrence to two other officers who placed them under temporary arrest and took them to police station.

While in a room at the police station, Mr. Parker said he was still handcuffed when Officer Cotton came in and struck him in the face with his hand. Another officer came in at this time and suggested that

(Continued on page 15)

A Transient Crime Wave

NORFOLK, which is usually quiet and peaceful, and spared the irritations of atrocious criminal disturbances, has been visited during recent days by a crime wave, which is hoped is transient, to say the least. It is difficult to explain the occurrence within two or three days of a number of crimes which come within the scope of capital offenses, except that perhaps the sudden advent of hot weather had disastrous effects upon the minds of certain persons already irreparably depraved. That two of the most reprehensible crimes committed against white persons are charged up to colored persons are especially regrettable, since crime, as bad as it is, takes on a distinct-ly more serious nature when it is interracial, and when the victims are white.

The JOURNAL AND GUIDE is very certain that every law abiding colored citizen in Norfolk—and 99 per cent of them are law-abiding—deeply deplore the attack upon the wife of Police Officer Crain, and extend their sympathy to the family. That a colored youth took it upon himself to run down the criminal is satisfactory.

There is one thing we have always been able to say concerning Norfolk. The people of the city have an admirable reputation for keeping their heads cool in the face of serious provocations at the hands of criminals. As a general rule the criminals get their just deserts at the hands of the law, which is as it should be.

There is one other thing that we have said on previous occasions, and which we wish to emphasize here and now. There are far too many instances when crimes committed by colored persons upon colored persons are regarded and treated too leniently by public opinion and by the constituted authorities. This is especially true of the action of juries in capital offenses. This is a good time to examine that situation.

This is also a good time to clean up the crime breeding places which thrive, in spite of considerable police activity, in many colored sections. Gin-milling, peddling for higher-up bootleggers, traffic in

"hot-stuff," or stolen goods, vagrancy of a malicious type and other forms of crime breeding, if not better controlled, will occasionally break out in the form of a succession of serious violations of the law, which may disturb the whole peace of the community and cause a deplorable set-back to harmonious race relations.

Crime-1933

Winchester Beating Raises Ire Of Colored Population

Greensboro, N. C., News

July 18, 1933

Negro Who Served Part of Life Term For Murder and Was Freed, Kills Two

(Special to Daily News)

Danville, Va., July 17.—A negro who served part of a life term for murder and who was pardoned, killed two more people early yesterday morning at Lucktown. He has confessed his crime, the county authorities say, and he now awaits trial at Chatham.

The accused is Frank Graves, a negro coal chute laborer employed by the Southern railway, who, in 1914 slew Eddie Motley, negro, not far from where he is alleged to have killed two others yesterday. He was pardoned about five years ago.

His victims were William Whitlock and Mattie Moore who, he told officers, were surprised by him at her house at 1 o'clock Sunday morning.

Arrested as a suspect and because police knew that he associated with away from work early yesterday the woman, Graves told how he stole lock's throat so violently that he was almost decapitated and then brained the woman with the flat side of an axe.

A neighbor discovered Whitlock sitting dead grotesquely on a settee and the woman still alive on the bed. She died last night.

Blood on Graves' overalls and blood on his jackknife were found when Graves, who was arrested at the coal chute, was examined. He had just reached the jail door according to officers, when he made his purported confession. In this confession he is quoted as saying that he was attacked when he entered the woman's house.

Who Commits Richmond's Murders?--Replies Differ

Residents From The Far South Deny That They Keep City On Homicide (Dis)Honor Roll

Richmond Bureau, 504 N. Third St. of the murders in Richmond, as well as in other cities, have been committed by natives of southern states, but they flatly deny that any such charge as made by the above mentioned writer contains any element of truth or that it can be sustained by the facts.

Far Southerners Object

If these people are so prone to murder and to the commission of other detestable crimes, why is it that the cities farther south do not show a much greater murder rate than is shown by Richmond, according to government statistics, they ask? Are there more citizens natives of the far south in Richmond than there are in Atlanta? If there are, where does the native Virginians abide? If the majority of colored citizens in the cities farther south are native born, why is it that these cities do not have a higher murder rate than the city of Richmond?

These and other questions are asked by southern-born men and women. They contend, moreover, that the geographical location of a person's birthplace is no indication of his or her tendency to commit murder and that this tendency is predicated largely upon the educational opportunities of the people, the social value of the education given them and the environment by which they are surrounded, especially during childhood and the adolescent stage.

Many persons have taken issue with the many unsupported statements made by this particular writer in his article—a long dissertation upon the murder situation in Richmond. His statement to the effect that the people who inhabit the districts which can truthfully be called "slums," are migrants to the city from states farther south and the viciousness of these people is in direct ratio to their native latitude. "The farther south the birthplace the more vicious the person."

It is conceded by many of those southerners who have come here that there are some things that can be said in truth along this line about people from farther south; it is admitted that some

In the mass meeting which filled every available seat in the Reformers Hall on last Friday night the following resolutions of protest were adopted:

We, the workers, white and Negro, 600 in number, gathered at a mass meeting called by the International Labor Defense on Friday, May 12, 3 P. M., at the True Reformers Hall, protest indignantly against the brutality of the local police of the so-called "Purity Squad" who broke themselves violently into the house of Annie Winchester, 1616 Buchanan Street, on Easter Monday and proceeded without any cause whatsoever to beat the members of the family and have knocked Mrs. Winchester unconscious. This was done in violation of the elementary rights of the people involved.

We declare that the Winchester case is not an isolated one, it is part of the general policy of the local police and the courts to disregard in the most contemptible manner the rights of the workers and especially the Negro people.

We demand the immediate dismissal of the Detectives Frasier and O'Neal, who displayed such vicious brutality in beating up the Winchester family, and who are known for such actions on many other occasions in the past.

We shall support the campaign of the International Labor Defense in order to put a stop to this abominable system of terror and brutality, which is responsible for the violation and denial of the most elementary rights to the millions of the oppressed Negro people especially in the Southern States, including the State of Virginia. We shall continue to mobilize the White and the Negro workers and all oppressed peoples to carry on the fight until such time when these brutalities will no longer be made possible.

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Mayor Bright and the local press. (Signed).

SAMUEL KELLY, Org.

'Ride 'em Cowboy' Tactics Used By Richmond Police As They Raid West End Gang Corners Saint Philip Hospital Resembles World War Outfit As Wounded Pour In From "Our" Brawls

Midnight raiding parties in "Ne Planet" during the World War were no more spectacular than the police raid staged last Saturday night in the West End section of the city. A squadron of about 30 sticks and guns, raided a large section south of Main Street and reaching all the way to Winder Street. The eastern boundary was Lombardy Street and it stretched a few blocks east to the white boundary line.

Citizens report to The Planet that they were accosted by the police, even as they stood in front of their homes, and told gruffly to move on. If one was a bit slow he was speeded up by a "gentle" prod of the stick which, in a few instances, was followed by a whack on the head with a blackjack—and, according to a fellow who showed the reporter five stitches in his head, it "don't feel so good." Several corner gangs were rounded up and they appeared before Judge T. Gray Monday morning, where they were dismissed with a warning.

Citizens say that these corner gangs should be broken up, but the "ride 'em cowboy" tactics of the Richmond police is not the way to do it. This kind of mass attack by police can only provoke a riot, it is said. And it is further pointed out that Judge John L. Ingram has ruled that the police cannot enforce the "move on" ordinance. It is believed that patrolmen on the beat can solve the corner gang men-ace in a more scientific manner than any raiding party could hope to do. The raiders look upon every Negro they see as a hanger-on. If one is passing at the time of the raid, he is immediately set upon by these police just as if he has been on the corner for a day or so.

Protests will be made, it is learned against this manner of attack on colored neighborhoods. West Enders say these raids are made periodically about twice a year and woe to any one who happens to be passing, or who is in front of his house as these "night riders" pass by.

An organized attempt to eliminate the colored population of Richmond by violence could hardly be more successful than the continual butchery of men and women by members of the race. Each week-end adds its toll to the already fouled escutcheon of the city. A week-end at Richmond is almost the exception here. It should be interesting to study the causes and find remedies for this situation. Many are thinking that the city of Richmond should inaugurate an investigation of conditions and plan for such steps as may be necessary to eliminate this useless waste of human blood.

The cost of medical care for these victims of hate, venom and whiskey brawls mounts steadily and constitutes a drain on the city's finances. Each Saturday evening special arrangements have to be made at St Philip Hospital to care for the flood of wounded and victims of switch-blade knives, pistols and guns and fence railings. Last Sunday night around 12 o'clock when Irving Davis was rushed into the emergency room with his wrist almost severed from the beat, the supplies were at a very low ebb, and recourse had to be made to the stock room.

Records at the Police Court show that over the week-end eleven cases of murderous assault had been booked. They were as follows:

Lazaar Lightner worked on the anatomy of Eva Nichols with a butcher knife.
George Coker attempted to kill Thomas Winston with a knife.
Johnnie Hunt knifed John Ferrell.
Mary Carter shot at Blanche Brown with a pistol in an attempt to kill her.

John Morgan stabbed Alfonso Williams.

Jim Smith stabbed James Robinson in attempt at murder.

Mary B. Johnson used an ice pick with almost disastrous results on

James Charity.
Robert Turner used a blunt instrument on Frances Turner.

Charley B. Green, known as Sor Green, shot James Penick and Augustus Conway over on Wood Street.

Henry Vaughan used a sharp instrument on Irving Davis.

Jim Winston was killed by Ella Seay.

This list reads like a casualty sheet during the drive on the Marne during the World War, and people hereabouts are saying that something must be done to save these people from themselves.

**RICHMOND, VA.
NEWS LEADER**

SEP 13 1933

CITY SHOULD BE SERIOUS ABOUT NEGRO CRIME.

Editor The News-Leader:

Sir,—This week's Richmond Planet carries an account of one murder and about eleven attempts of murder among Negroes in this city. It also speaks of this being a regular week-end sport, which is true. It has been suggested that the city make an investigation into these affairs and find the cause and a remedy for the same.

I would not be afraid to say that of all the eleven cases in court this week that hardly one of them were Richmond Negroes, or a person that's known by the better class of Richmond Negroes. Although Richmond was rated as fifteenth in the number of murders in the United States, and most of these murders were among Negroes, it has been proven that only case was among Richmond Negroes.

The self-respecting Negroes in Richmond get a very little encouragement from the city. The underworld seems to stand in fear of no one, and it's a common thing to drive through the Negro section and

fifteen or twenty Negroes loafing on a street corner, or on most every corner and especially where there is a store of some kind.

They are so accustomed to the police that if one should come along they are seen chatting together and don't pay any attention to them. It would be well if the police on the beats were changed oftener and such familiarity would not exist. Being allowed to loaf around these stores, and forced to live in run-down, poorly constructed houses, being allowed to live in filth and live any way they want to, along with the depression have given them all of the excuses they want for being so-called bad Negroes.

The fact that the white man takes anything that happens among Negroes as a joke, even murder, has caused some of them to think that they can do anything they want to and get away with it. If the Negroes of Richmond were given more consideration by the city, many of these things would never happen. If they were given better police protection, better housing conditions, clean streets and alleys, lights, lot of Negroes would be forced to act decent just on general principle.

If the city would set a high standard of living and force all classes to live up to it, a lot of the things that's done now and passed unnoticed, would be noticed then.

The standard set for Negroes in this city is far too low. There are enough laws on the books if they were only enforced. The Negroes themselves make a big mistake by not complaining when they see how they are neglected. They are not allowed to work for the city for pay, and they content themselves by seeing things go undone and allow themselves to be surrounded by filth, weeds, grass and dirty streets.

Summing the whole thing up something must be done about it. Our city fathers must act, and give us such protection as is necessary.

THE FORGOTTEN MAN.

Police Brutality

There was absolutely no justification for the manhandling and beating of Thomas E. Stone and the assault upon some of the Negro children who followed him in the Hunger March on Saturday. It was just another case of police brutality which has been characteristic of the department in their treatment of the handling of Communists in this city. 12-30-33

Not content with denying these people their constitutional rights of free speech, peaceful assembly and petition, these guardians of the peace became law-breakers and resorted to lynch methods to enforce their wills on an unoffending group of citizens, most of whom were children. And, mind you, this in spite of the fact that the courts of the city have repeatedly repudiated the action of the department and consistently refused to administer any punishment following these illegal and unnecessary arrests. Public resentment against the conduct of the department is necessary to teach it official propriety.